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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Draws UN Attention to Deportees

NC1907211093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today called on the United Nations to exercise its role to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 799, which was adopted unanimously and which called for the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

In a message he sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the peoples of the Middle East look with hope and confidence to the United Nations to do its utmost to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area and to force Israel to abide by the UN resolutions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained that the serious, inhumane conditions under which the Palestinian deportees live in Marj al-Zuhur camp in southern Lebanon prove that Israel is not serious in implementing UN resolutions.

He said that this also proves Israel's defiance and violation not only of those resolutions with a political dimension but also of the resolutions that pertain to human rights and dignity, such as Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate and safe return of these deportees.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that Israel's continued adherence to a policy which violates international legitimacy and human rights casts a heavy shadow over the seriousness of Israel's commitment to the peace negotiations and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The Arab League secretary general recently received a message from the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in which they explained the living conditions and psychological pressures under which they exist due to the spread of disease, the hardships of life, their feeling that the world has forgotten their case, and the continuation of the status quo without any glimmer of hope.

Palestinian Affairs

Newspaper Details U.S. Envoy's 'Secret Mission'

TA1907145493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] AL-NAHAR has learned from exclusive sources close to the U.S. State Department's Near East and South Asian Affairs branch that the recent trip by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross to some of the region's capitals was, in fact, a secret mission with a special and unique characteristic. During this mission, he carried urgent and important messages asking officials in those capitals to maintain total secrecy. The trip's aim was not to get acquainted with the positions of the negotiating parties' leaderships on the U.S. working paper submitted earlier to the delegations on the different tracks.

These sources say that the messages carried by Ross were drafted meticulously by a team chosen carefully from the National Security Council, President Bill Clinton's advisers, and U.S. State Department advisers under the direct supervision of Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Sources close to the U.S. State Department told AL-NAHAR's correspondent in Washington that the extremely important messages carried by Ross were worded diplomatically and that the Ross' delegation members did not have the authority to discuss the messages' content with the recipients. This explains why Ross' tour was short.

These sources added that the messages contained the following main points, in one form or another:

First: Setting a timetable for all the parties on all the tracks to conclude and crystallize all problems and issues still under discussion or debate. The messages set a date no later than eight months from their receipt for drawing up a general and principled framework for agreements on all tracks.

Second: In its messages, the U.S. Administration asked the negotiating parties to estimate the number of rounds required to solve problems and conclude the talks. The messages proposed a maximum of eight more rounds, providing that the 18th and last round be ceremonial.

Third: The messages considered the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Arab Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements, part of a settlement that should be reached on the Palestinian-Israeli track, taking into account Jerusalem's unique status and the need to keep it an open city.

Fourth: In order to untie the knot of Jerusalem and the settlements, the messages proposed that each party drop the feature of national sovereignty from East Jerusalem and substitute it with another that includes some sort of a mutually collective responsibility.

Fifth: The U.S. messages said that the fate of Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip should be decided by the Israeli Government because it was responsible for setting them up during the era of conflict in the region. Several proposals on this issue have been discussed in previous rounds of negotiations or at high-level meetings with the various parties.

Sixth: Once the initial agreements on the various tracks are achieved, the United States undertook to immediately begin implementing a comprehensive economic plan in the entire region, starting with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The U.S. Administration has allocated an initial $2.2 billion for various spheres.

Seventh: The U.S. messages considered the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be automatically linked to, in a

comprehensive agreement, and confederated with Jordan. By doing this, the U.S. hopes to push the other tracks toward achieving final agreements, surmounting stumbling blocks in the talk's agenda. These obstacles include self-rule, its different interpretations, the problems inherent to a phased interim stage, the sources of powers and legislation, and other issues.

Eighth: Israel recognizes the Golan Heights as occupied territories from which it will withdraw in phases over several years in an agreed upon timeframe. This withdrawal will parallel normalization between Syria and Israel. Moreover, a peace agreement with Lebanon will be arranged with Israel's withdrawal and a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty will be signed.

AL-NAHAR has also learned that the content of these messages will be the main topic of discussion during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region on 29 July.

In a related development, it has been learned that a supplementary study is being prepared that is considered an attachment to the recent messages distributed by the senior U.S. envoy to the region. The United States refrained from handing over these messages to the delegations participating in the talks, proving the importance Washington attaches to those messages and their content.

With regard to this study, the same sources said that it includes discussion of the basis that can be adopted for the proposed regional economic development and the degree of these proposals' contribution in reaching political agreements. One of the issues addressed is the construction of a modern railroad network in the region to facilitate the transfer of people and goods. French, German, and Danish companies have been asked to evaluate the cost of constructing this railroad.

Another issue addressed by the study was the use of Arab ports to encourage tourism between various parts of the region. The study also discussed linking the West Bank with the Gaza Strip by a 5-km-wide land corridor and granting the confederal state maritime concessions in the ports of Haifa and Ashdod.

PLO Official on Ross Tour, U.S. Peace Proposals

NC2007082593 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 13 Jul 93 p 2

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by Muhammad Matar; place and date not given]

[Text] [Matar] Observers believe that the U.S. delegation led by Dennis Ross visited the region to give impetus to the Syrian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks, which have stagnated during the bilateral talks. It is known that the Palestinian delegation rejected the U.S. paper at the end of the 10th round. Has the U.S. delegation brought anything new? Do you have any new proposals? How do you view the paper, if it is not amended?

['Abbas] I believe that the Americans are trying to amend their paper so that we can deal with it, particularly the issues of geographical jurisdiction and Jerusalem. We have said that we will not deal with this paper if the parts dealing with these issues are not amended. We are not submitting any papers in order to explain that we are not negative but we want amendments to the issues and questions that we believe are contrary to the letters of invitations to the negotiations, the letters of assurances, and the peace process terms of reference, especially Resolution 242. We believe that the U.S. paper undermines the peace process, blows the negotiations off course, and destroys U.S. credibility as a sponsor and an honest broker in the peace process.

[Matar] No tangible progress has been made so far in the Palestinian-Israeli track during the previous rounds of talks. Will the 10th round be the last one or will the whole context of the negotiations be reviewed?

['Abbas] We do not want to boycott the negotiations. We have never said that we want to undermine the peace process. What we very clearly want is continued U.S. commitment to the terms of reference and its pledges to us, and consequently to present ideas through which we can discuss the document on the principles of autonomy with the Israelis. We believe that there has to be a review of the overall context of the negotiations, which have proved to be ineffective. It has become necessary to reformulate this context to make up for its shortcomings and provide it with whatever is necessary in respect to the Palestinian representation.

[Matar] The Americans are complaining that the participating delegations lack full authority. It appears that there is an Israeli-U.S. agreement to raise the level of negotiations. What do you think of that? Will the PLO participate directly in the negotiations?

['Abbas] Raising the level of the negotiations will not be the only issue considered if the "Madrid" conditions are reviewed. There is a first condition for changing "the course of the game," namely to invite the PLO to sit at the negotiating table. The second condition is to quickly begin negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories. I believe that these words must be translated into reality. It is quite certain that two-thirds of the Rabin government members support the PLO's direct participation in the negotiations and starting the discussion about the final status. But Rabin is rejecting this.

[Matar] But the Israeli Government is proposing a period of three years to start the negotiations over the final status. How do you regard this?

['Abbas] This is an Israeli excuse to tamper with the conditions for the negotiations and to benefit from the time factor and consolidate what they want, believing that the Palestinians will accept anything during the transitional stage that has nothing to do with the final

stage. But this will not be allowed to happen and we will never accept anything that is not in line with the final solutions. It is impossible to let any situation stand that is not linked to the final solution. We will not accept any attempts to reduce the geographical jurisdiction and impose the annexation and make it a reality. That is what has set off the Jerusalem issue.

[Matar] Everyone is asking the United States to play the role of a full partner. Washington has not exercised its role so far. Many believe that the present U.S. Administration is less active in the peace process. Are you expecting a change in the way the United States is dealing with the peace process?

['Abbas] This is supposed to be the case because the negotiations have reached an "impasse." We are testing whether the U.S. Administration is committed to the peace initiative declared by Bush or to the terms of reference for the negotiations, which are the principle of land in return for peace, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and security for all the countries of the region. Is it committed to the letter of invitation and the guarantees given to us by the former administration and the conference cosponsors? Or is there a new level playing field?

[Matar] Egypt is playing a major role in giving impetus to the peace process. You met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. What did you discuss? Are there new specific Egyptian proposals?

['Abbas] We discussed the Palestinian objections to the draft U.S. proposals on autonomy that were presented at the end of the 10th round of the peace negotiations.

Commentary Reviews Confederation Plan

LD2007002493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, there is no doubt that the peace process has now reached, after 20 months and 10 rounds, the brink of the abyss. From the Palestinian angle, at least, the expected visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has come to be described, perhaps, as a political funeral for the peace negotiations. But, and in order to maintain the impetus of the peace process, we find that there are some who state that Ross' visit to the region has achieved crucial progress.

Now there is a new song saying that a confederation is the optimal solution. A Palestinian-Jordanian confederation might be an excellent political option for both Arab parties, and the two sides might be convinced of the importance of embarking on a political-legal relationship of this kind. Definitely, the Palestinian side has been convinced, for a long time, that a confederation is a fundamental option. Political Palestinian-Jordanian relations are based on solid bases of clarity, cooperation, and the striving for common goals.

The issue here, then, is not about the confederation, which is a private Palestinian-Jordanian issue. The issue is about the attempt by the American side to find solutions that are in line mainly with the orientations of the Israeli side. The relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides is not the subject of current negotiations, and it is not an obstacle in the path of achieving peace in the region. The subject of the negotiations is the implementation of UN resolutions, which clearly and frankly call for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

When Israel complies with international demands, the future of relations in the region becomes open to discussion by the Arab sides, which are the only ones concerned with the arrangement of the form of relationship that connects them.

We must here point out that the two problems of the negotiation process in the Palestinian-Israeli course of talks were and are still connected to the geographic sovereignty of the entirety of Palestinian land occupied in 1967, on the one side, and the issue of Jerusalem, which is considered a central cause, not only for the Palestinian side, but also for all the Arabs, on the other. [passage omitted]

The raising of the confederation issue now by the Americans and the Israelis could be comfortable for the Israeli side and an opportunity to achieve the long-awaited progress in a difficult negotiations process, but Israel must provide clear answers to the fundamental issues that the Palestinian side originally put forward.

From a factual and practical point of view, the confederation remains a private Palestinian-Jordanian issue.

'Abd-al-Shafi's Call for Curbs on 'Arafat Viewed

PM1907123793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 93 p 1

['Ali Salih and Ilyas Nasrallah report: "Hamas Praises Call for Collective PLO Leadership"]

[Excerpt] London—There have been varied reactions to the statements made by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, in which he called for the formation of a collective leadership for the PLO to assume the Palestinian decision-making task. The PLO was surprised by these statements. A PLO source in Tunis, who asked to remain anonymous, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "these statements surprised us." The source declined to give his opinion. The source just said that this issue will be discussed in detail in the Palestinian leadership meetings to be held soon.

In an interview with REUTER the day before yesterday Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi called for radical reforms in the PLO

and for putting restrictions on the powers of its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, but refrained from demanding his removal from the leadership.

A source close to 'Abd-al-Shafi has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these statements came as a result of an autocratic Palestinian decision originating with Yasir 'Arafat, namely to backtrack on the PLO's position rejecting the U.S. document proposed as a Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles—the document which excludes Jerusalem from geographical jurisdiction over the autonomous entity. It has been learned that 'Abd-al-Shafi was surprised that the Palestinian delegation that met with Dennis Ross in Jerusalem had handed him a Palestinian document containing four points as proposals to amend the U.S. document—which means Palestinian backtracking on the rejection of the declaration of principles proposed by Washington.

'Abd-al-Shafi refused to participate in the talks with Ross. Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, the People's Party's representative in the negotiating delegation, also pulled out of the talks because of what he termed "some delegates' desire to submit proposals conflicting with what had been agreed previously."

Al-Khatib supported Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's statements. Hamas' official spokesman also supported the statements.

Al-Khatib said that "these statements represent our position. We demanded and continue to demand that collective action be developed, autocracy reduced, and democracy increased in Palestinian action."

For his part, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah (Abu-'Umar), official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has said: "We support these statements, which represent our position in this context."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Ghawshah added that "these statements represent a call based on long experience in Palestinian action. They also emphasize the need to adhere to democracy and collective leadership."

He said: "The time has come for the Palestinian people to have their say about their future, their cause, and the destiny of their posterity." He stressed that "this say should not be left to one person, whatever the abilities and capabilities of that person." [passage omitted]

Officials on Fatah Revolutionary Council Meeting

JN1907143793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Muhammad Kurayshan dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council today began to discuss the report that Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, submitted at the outset of the meeting yesterday.

Qaddumi said the report reviewed the deadlock in the peace settlement, the need to take collective Arab action to end this impasse, and the need to pressure Europe into playing a more effective role following Washington's clear bias toward Israel, as he put it.

Qaddumi told our radio that his report also dealt with Fatah's internal structure and promoting the cadres' activity, particularly in the occupied territories and among young people. The report also discussed the need to continue the comprehensive dialogue with all other factions, bolstering the coordination with the Arab cordon states, and fostering the distinguished relations with Jordan.

'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the committee for dialogue with the 10 factions opposed to the peace settlement, said the Revolutionary Council began its meetings in an extremely positive atmosphere, as he put it. There is great appreciation for the dialogues held with the other factions in Damascus and Amman, he noted.

Zaki told our radio: The Revolutionary Council will consider ways to prepare for Christopher's forthcoming visit to the region by holding effective coordination with other Arab parties in order to commit the U.S. cosponsor to honoring the terms of reference of the peace process. In view of the PLO's current sensitive circumstances and its financial and administrative difficulties, Zaki said the PLO now resembles a besieged fortress.

Deportees Stage Sit-In To Protest Detention

JN1707181093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees stranded at Marj al-Zuhur in south Lebanon today staged a sit-in to protest their seven-month encampment.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, a spokesman for the deportees—who, God willing, will return—urged the UN Security Council, the Arab League, and other world bodies to promote their drive to return to their homeland. Today's sit-in is to protest the Council's attitude and the League's silence, al-Rantisi explained.

OPEC Affairs

Extraordinary Meeting To Be Held at End of Month

LD1907173093 [illegible] OPECNA in English 1707 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Vienna, 19 July 93 (OPECNA)—The OPEC Secretariat here this afternoon released the following press statement concerning the announcement of an extraordinary meeting of the OPEC conference:

OPEC is to hold an extraordinary meeting of the conference at the end of July, in order to discuss the current soft state of the international oil market.

The price of the OPEC reference basket of crudes now stands at 15.46 dollars a barrel (Friday 16 July), well below the organization's minimum reference level of 21 dollars a barrel.

There has been a general weakening of the price structure since the middle of May, when the weekly average for the basket stood at just over 18 dollars a barrel. In the third week of June, it fell below 17 dollars a barrel, and in the second week of July it dipped beneath 16 dollars a barrel.

On 10 June, the conference of OPEC ministers decided to roll over the February 1993 production ceiling of 23.582 million b/d for the third quarter of the year, in order to support the price structure. After the meeting, however, prices continued to fall in the softer-than-expected world economy.

The possibility of an agreement between Iraq and the United Nations, leading to the return of Iraqi oil exports to the world market in the near future, has added to the psychological pressure on prices. However, the extraordinary meeting will proceed, whatever the outcome of the present talks, to assess the broader market fundamentals.

Algeria

Court Passes Sentences for Terrorist Offenses

LD1907225493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Various sentences were passed at noon today by the special judiciary court in Oran relating to cases connected with acts that brought about verious charges. Details are given by Mahfoudh Mannan.

[Mannan] The case of the Amir (?'Akacha) group in Ain el Hadid, in the province of Tiaret, affects 30 persons. Twenty-two of them were arrested, and the remaining eight are still on the run.

The charges against the group are: lying in wait, deliberate and premeditated murder, forming a terrorist group, conspiring against the authority of the state, aggravated robbery, kidnapping, failure to report the criminals, and aiding those who committed the crimes. These crimes go back to the latter part of last year. The sentences passed by the special judiciary court were death sentences for five persons, life sentences for three persons, and 3- to 10-year sentences for 10 defendants.

As for the rest, they benefited by getting 3-year suspended sentences. Two defendants were acquitted.

In the second case, the Oran special judiciary court passed the following sentences: 10 years' imprisonment against the defendant who was present at the hearing and a life sentence against five defendants on the run. This is the case of the group of Amir Gargouri, which used to be [words indistinct]. The latter was killed following a clash with security men.

The charges against the group were: conspiring against the authority of the state, possession of weapons, and sabotaging state property.

Egypt

Musa Comments on Visits to Greece, Lebanon

NC1907143193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this afternoon from Beirut, following visits to Greece and Lebanon.

In an arrival statement, Musa said that his visit to Greece provided an opportunity to exchange views with the official there on a number of issues, including Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Middle East peace negotiations. He said that during his visit, he met with the Greek prime minister and the ministers of foreign affairs and defense, as well as with the Greek opposition leader and a number of party leaders. He explained that these meetings provided a good opportunity to exchange views on various issues of mutual interest.

The foreign minister said that his visit to Lebanon was successful and provided a suitable opportunity to review the situation following the recent round of peace negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track and the other tracks. He added that he exchanged views on the peace process, the situation in southern Lebanon, and the results of the visit of Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace negotiations. He said he also discussed bilateral relations and agreed to hold a meeting of a joint Egyptian-Lebanese committee chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Musa also said that he discussed economic and cultural relations and various aspects of cooperation between the two countries with the Lebanese officials. He said that Egypt and Lebanon have always had extensive relations.

He said that no date has yet been set for a meeting of the cordon states, adding that this will be done after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East, which is expected to take place a week from today.

Regarding the peace process, the foreign minister said that there are good possibilities. Much was accomplished in the 10th round. There are other opportunities for progress on the Syrian-Israeli, Lebanese-Israeli, and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating tracks.

Regarding the status of Jerusalem, Musa explained that there are Palestinian and U.S. formulas. He said that Egypt is ready to propose some formulas if necessary—not in our capacity as negotiators, but as a country interested in the future of the peace process.

Regarding Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa said that contacts are taking place with Sudan to set a date for the foreign ministers of the two countries to meet, which is expected at the end of July.

Discusses Bosnia Issue

NC1907081293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0603 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt cannot currently intervene in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially as the major powers cannot or "do not wish" to intervene and halt the invasion and ethnic cleansing operations there.

The foreign minister said that Egypt is, however, willing to back the Bosnian leadership's proposals on the issue and is making efforts worldwide to contain the deteriorating situation in that country.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM published today, Musa declared that Egypt absolutely rejects Bosnia-Herzegovina's partition as a solution to the crisis. He announced that if such a partition is imposed it will only lead to further tension and clashes in the Balkans.

He described conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina as "very bad" and said that the situation is being handled erroneously and many excuses are allowed.

Asked what solution Egypt advocates, he said Bosnia-Herzegovina's sovereignty must be maintained and that Muslims, Serbs, and Croats must coexist in a way that is satisfactory to all sides. He added that all forms of expansion carried out by one sect [ihda al-tawa'if] at the expense of another must be halted by a specific date so that coexistence can begin.

Musa pointed out that the United Nations can intervene to arrange a transitional situation in the country. He explained that such intervention must be done on clear and appropriate grounds and not be a prelude to partition or to a repetition of the former situation.

The foreign minister reiterated the Egyptian opposition to Bosnia-Herzegovina's partition, explaining that Egypt cannot be asked to send a contingent to participate in any UN forces while there is talk of partition. He announced that Egypt will refuse to contribute forces to an effort aimed at that country's partition. He pointed out that the Egyptian forces currently in Bosnia-Herzegovina help secure relief supplies via Sarajevo Airport and guarantee that the Bosnian people can use the airport.

Musa said that the Vance-Owen plan for dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina on ethnic lines might be acceptable as an administrative arrangement only, but a three-way partition of the country without remedying the situation resulting from Serbian expansion is unacceptable.

Commenting on the results of the recent Islamic Conference Organization meeting in Islamabad, which resulted in an offer to send Muslim forces under the UN flag to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the foreign minister said that the Egyptian delegation told the meeting that Cairo is willing to cooperate in this endeavor if it is informed of the purpose.

'Amr Musa stressed that Egyptian forces will not be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina if Egypt believes that the aim is to divide that country. He said Egypt has not offered to send forces so far.

Kuwaiti Envoy Delivers Message on Gulf to Musa

NC1907192993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1754 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received a message from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealing with the situation in the Gulf.

Musa received the message during his meeting this evening with Shaykh al-Jabir's adviser, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, ways to boost Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations in all fields were discussed.

Comments on Regional Issues

NC1907193393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, adviser to the Kuwaiti foreign minister, has affirmed that the implementation of the Damascus Declaration is a strategic goal that Kuwait is seeking to implement because it is considered the basis for the establishment of an Arab order, which recognizes that every state has its own legitimacy, borders, and territorial integrity and its people have the right and freedom to manage its resources and expand the basis of common interests and build a network of relations based on mutual respect.

During his meeting with journalists at the AL-AHRAM political studies center today, the Kuwaiti foreign minister's adviser said that Kuwait has sought to sign bilateral security agreements with Egypt and Syria on the points of the agreements concluded with the international coalition states because it understands that Egypt and Syria are allies who have implemented the joint Arab defense treaty.

Bisharah added that in the next stage his country aims to build the Gulf security wall and initiate a dialogue with neighboring states, particularly Iran, to redirect it in its ideological views and make it a moderate state capable of coexisting with the other states in the region.

He noted that his country also seeks to implement the Damascus Declaration, actively participate in the new world order, support development programs in the Arab states, particularly Egypt and Syria and the Islamic countries and the Third World states.

Bisharah noted that his country held contacts with the Iraqi opposition: Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis. He added that a delegation representing the Iraqi opposition will arrive in Kuwait at the end of July to discuss ways to strengthen relations with the opposition, with the support of the other Gulf Cooperation Council states so that there will be no lapse in the Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations should the present Iraqi regime fall.

Regarding the Arab League secretary general's initiative for Arab reconciliation, Bisharah said: We will not deal with this issue as the Arab leaders are dealing with it. He added that Kuwait has no specific conditions for the restoration of inter-Arab relations, but noted that it is sad, not because some Arab states supported Iraq during the invasion, but because these states have sought to frustrate the international effort to liberate Kuwait and to stir up the Arab public, including the people in the Gulf, to obstruct the operation to liberate Kuwait.

Agreement With U.S. To Form Emergency Force Noted

NC1707190193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn: "Cairo and Washington Agree To Prepare 30,000 Troops To Operate Under U.S. Command"]

[Text] The United States has reached an agreement with the government to set up an emergency force under the U.S. command to operate from Cairo in the Arab and Islamic region. Its range of operation will be 1,500 miles and will extend from Pakistan to Morocco.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the U.S.-Egyptian agreement was the fruit of extensive contacts between the two sides. Secret meetings were held in Cairo and Washington in February, September, and October 1992 and were crowned by a secret visit [to Egypt] by a U.S. delegation made up of nine officials led by Colonel Todd [name as published] from the U.S. Central Command operating in the region. Talks during the visit lasted for five days from 13 to 18 June 1993. The Egyptian-U.S. agreement includes the preparation of 30,000 troops to form the nucleus of this force, which will be supplied with types of weapons compatible with the weapons used by the U.S. troops in the region. The U.S. side will provide arrangements for transferring these troops to the operation scene and will provide the necessary warning and cover for these troops to move to the scene.

The agreement outlines the sources of threat within the range of which the new force will operate. The U.S. side prepared a specific scenario for action by the new force. It involves Iran's occupation of one of the islands in the Strait of Hormuz, and the new force will be required to rescue the island from the Iranian troops. The U.S. side emphasized that this agreement gives an initial estimate of the magnitude of this force and that amendments could be introduced to its size according to the threats it will be required to deal with.

An agreement was reached to set up a joint emergency committee between the two sides to supervise the formation and plans of this force. The committee will meet in January in Washington to assess the measures taken to prepare the force.

U.S. Interest Said Force Behind Pursuit of Saddam

NC2007110793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jul 93 p 8

[From the "Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Secret Riddle of the United States and Iraq"]

[Text] There must be a strong reason that impels the United States to pursue Saddam in this strange manner, to the extent that President Clinton, his deputy, and his secretary of state can see no problems marring international peace other than Iraq's refusal to allow cameras to be installed at two missile testing sites south of Baghdad!

The Israeli mobilization and raids on refugee camps in Lebanon, the continuing massacres in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serbs' blatant challenge to UN resolutions, and the massacre perpetrated by the U.S. forces in Somalia do not bother the United States at all. But what interests the United States and makes it seethe with anger is Saddam Husayn heckling the UN inspection team and preventing it from installing the cameras in the hope of reaching a compromise that will allow Iraq to export its oil.

There are important U.S. interests behind these apparent differences—which appear to be trivial—between Iraq and the United Nations and United States. These interests raise President Clinton's blood pressure and make him lose patience with every one of Saddam's actions.

If Iraq is allowed to export its oil, these exports will not stop, and this will lead to a drop in the world price of oil. Clinton seeks to achieve this drop because a reduction in the price of oil will allow him to impose a fuel tax—having already being worn out in his attempts to get Congress to approve such a measure—and thus plug some of the U.S. budget deficit. But for Iraqi oil to continue to be exported and for the fall in the price of oil to be sustained, Washington must be certain that the Iraqi highwayman has been stripped of all his weapons, even of all the capability to make these weapons.

This means that U.S. interest alone heats up or cools the situation, strikes with missiles or buys oil, regardless of whether this damages the interests of the other Arab oil-producing countries.

Britain and France are the first countries to benefit from this, because whatever is left of the Arab oil money will be spent on buying expensive weapons from these two countries and on concluding expensive security arrangements. And why shouldn't this be the case when there are Arab countries that groan and ask for succor when a bullet is fired in the air on the border?

The irony is that, as far as the United States and the West are concerned, Iraq's position as an invader and aggressor does not differ from its position as isolated, defeated, and besieged.

The Arab cow is milked in both cases and cannot even butt with its horns or bellow a warning against excessive misuse. This explains the shouts of anger and the threats to strike Baghdad with missiles whenever Iraq dithers in implementing what the United States wants.

This is the secret of the Iraqi-U.S. riddle!

'Lessons' for Iran, North Korea Seen in Iraqi Strike

NC2007103393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 8

["Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "America's Private Lessons"]

[Text] It seems President Clinton's administration will spend its term preoccupied with one obsession, teaching Saddam Husayn one lesson after another by using its military power, with or without UN Security Council approval. After every lesson, Saddam Husayn's regime grows stronger in Iraq, and peace and stability become weaker in the Gulf region. Perhaps this is what the United States wants!

Two weeks ago, President Clinton's administration gave Saddam Husayn a private lesson with Tomahawk missiles as a punishment for an unconfirmed accusation of involvement in a plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush. The outcome of the attack showed the lesson was not completely effective. The missiles destroyed only an insignificant part of the Iraqi intelligence building, but they hit innocent people, destroyed houses, and aroused the indignation of many people in the Arab world against the United States.

There has recently been renewed talk about the United States' intention to teach Iraq a new lesson on the pretext that the situation is "serious," "extremely serious" with Iraq, thus prompting President Clinton to raise the issue at the Tokyo conference. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher alluded to the possibility of directing another military strike against Baghdad. The "danger" that concerns the U.S. Administration is that the Iraqi authorities have refused to allow a UN inspection team to set up cameras to monitor two missile testing sites.

Clearly, the issue is not one of cameras. Military measures and missile strikes have never been used before against any country just because of a dispute over the implementation of preventive measures demanded by the United Nations to ensure that tests are not conducted on banned weapons.

Certainly, Iraq has agreed in principle to allow these cameras to be set up, but also demands that the economic sanctions imposed on it or some of them be lifted, because it has complied with most of the UN resolutions. A senior U.S. expert who inspected the Iraqi nuclear installations for the International Atomic Energy Agency affirmed that the Iraqi nuclear program has been destroyed and that there is no more justification to continue the sanctions against Iraq according to Resolution 687. Perhaps this is why the United Nations is negotiating to allow Iraq to sell oil worth $1 6 billion to buy food.

Clearly, the attack on Iraq and the allusion to the possibility of a second and third strike is not due to the "seriousness" of the situation with Iraq as the U.S. Administration says. The intention is to give lessons to North Korea, which has not submitted to U.S. pressure and has not rescinded its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The lesson is also intended for Iran, which has reportedly obtained missiles from North Korea and a nuclear power station from China. This is the diplomacy of private lessons in the new world!

Editorial Urges UN To Allow Sale of Iraqi Oil

NC2007105593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jul 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Crisis of the Cameras"]

[Text] The crisis between Iraq and the United States is becoming grave. While it has become a conflict between the Baghdad government and the UN inspection team over the installation of cameras at two missile testing sites, the real party threatening a new military strike—it launched one two weeks ago, harming innocent civilians more than the existing regime in Iraq—is the United States, which intervenes militarily with or without the Security Council's approval.

UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali has decided to cancel a visit to Brazil to closely follow the developments of the crisis with Iraq. The Security Council has also asked the chairman of the UN committee tasked with removing the weapons of mass destruction from Iraq to travel immediately to Baghdad in an attempt to defuse the dispute over whether the cameras for monitoring the missile tests should be installed. The crisis can almost be called the crisis of the cameras.

According to reports and statements from Baghdad, Iraq agrees in principle with the installation of the cameras, but is demanding that the economic sanctions imposed on it be lifted or—at least—some of these sanctions be lifted on the basis that Iraq has complied with most Security Council resolutions.

We call on the United Nations to show humanitarian consideration toward the Iraqi people and to take the initiative to allow the sale of a quantity of Iraqi oil to meet the people's need for imported food. We also call on the Iraqi Government to release the hostages it is detaining to improve its image before the world and to dissipate the tension with the other governments so that there will be no repeat of the military intervention the price of which is paid by the innocent sons of the Iraqi people.

Newspapers View Handling of 'Abd-al-Rahman Issue

NC1907163893

[Editorial Report] Two Egyptian Arabic-languague daily newspapers comment on the issue of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman on 7 through 9 July. In a 250-word editorial, titled "Just Retribution," on page 9 of its 7 July issue, Cairo AL-AHRAM says: "Egypt officially asked the United States to hand over Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in accordance with the decision issued by the al-Fayyum Higher State Security Court." Musa also asked the U.S. ambassador in Cairo to hand over the shaykh to try him in Cairo. The editorial adds: "These steps show the extent of Egypt's concern that those who harm their country should be justly punished." The editorial believes Egyptians working abroad suffer, but are proud of their country and feel hurt when someone

makes a negative comment about Egypt. The author asserts: "The misguided group is not part of the homeland, because it has diverted from the norm." The editorial concludes: "We call on the United States to appreciate the importance of the request and speed up its measures so that everyone can have their rights restored and our courts can reward those who are loyal to their homeland and punish those who harm it."

Cairo AL-AHRAM on 8 July publishes on page 8 the 450-word "Close-Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah titled: "The Story of Shaykh 'Umar." The writer begins by asking whether Egypt needed to ask the United States to extradite the shaykh or whether the request was a mere formality in compliance with the al-Fayyum court decision. He notes that the U.S. authorities were probably satisfied to start with, since the shaykh was their man in Afghanistan. He claims: "Things changed after that, but in a way the two sides—Egypt and the United States—did not expect." Salamah explains: "It seemed as if there was an American effort to transform the shaykh into a religious and political leader and turn him into a hero to be exploited for reasons no one knows anything about." Salamah claims that the mosque the shaykh preached at in the United States became a hotbed of political, religious, and terrorist activity upon his arrival. Even when they had evidence of his involvement in such activity, the writer contends: "They charged him with nothing." He asks: "If the U.S. authorities have not uncovered his involvement in terrorist acts, will the Egyptian authorities discover it? Have we considered the security risk in keeping him in Egypt?" Salamah concludes: "The important point for the United States is that Egypt feels it can lay its hands on him. Was this the point?"

Cairo AL-AKHBAR on 9 July publishes the 400-word "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sunbul on page 9. Sunbul maintains that American media turned Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman into an issue: "They compared him with Khomeyni and claimed he will do in Egypt what Khomeyni did in Iran." He adds: "Some say it is no secret that there is a relationship between the shaykh and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency," which started during the Afghanistan war. "Therefore," Sunbul deduces, "U.S. intelligence could have helped to exaggerate the image of the man, perhaps to use him, with or without his knowledge, in other roles."

Sunbul argues: "Some believe the Zionists played an influential role in exaggerating the importance of the man and portraying him as a leader of the Muslims to arouse American fears of Islam and the Muslims." He goes on to list the arrests made by American police and refers to the World Trade Center explosion, saying: "This incident had great repercussions in the United States, since people began to fear the Islamic leader, who preaches terrorism and sanctions the murder of innocent people." He asks whether one of the objectives of the campaign was to harm Islam and concludes by asking what the truth is behind all these questions. He states: "When evidence and proof are absent, it becomes difficult to find the truth."

Writer: 'Abd-al-Rahman 'U.S.-Made Khomeyni'

NC1907103493 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 93 p 4

[Column by Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: "Weekend"]

[Text] When the Khomeyni revolution succeeded in Iran in 1979, there was frantic activity in every U.S. agency. All U.S. monitoring facilities abroad began to follow developments, gather information, and analyze things to map out views and alternatives. The Middle East was one of the largest centers of this huge U.S. activity, in view of its extreme importance and because the event occurred in Iran, one of the most important countries to the United States. The American Embassy in Cairo was one of the most active embassies in the region, perhaps in the whole world, in following up this event. Embassy staffers went everywhere, asking questions, searching, and analyzing. The then press adviser visited several press establishments and information media centers and met dozens of their members for this purpose. The man visited this newspaper and asked to meet its senior staff members. The only question he asked was: Could a Khomeyni appear in Egypt? Could what happened in Iran happen in Egypt?

The United States felt very disturbed by what happened in Iran. The shah was one of its loyal men and, during his era, Iran was a member of a triumvirate on which U.S. strategy relied to achieve its goals in the Middle East—Iran in the East, Morocco in the far West, and Ethiopia in the south. The United States became more disturbed after U.S. Embassy staffers in Tehran were taken hostage and the U.S. operation to save them failed, leading to the defeat of President Carter in the election. The United States, as a superpower, tried to learn this lesson well.

Iran's Khomeyni was not made in the United States. But why not have a U.S.-made Khomeyni? It seemed strange that in 1979, "the American" asked in Cairo if what happened in Iran might occur in Egypt. Then, extremism had neither a large base nor leadership in Egypt. Later, his question seemed to indicate that the United States wanted to say how it might make that happen in Egypt. The United States knows Egypt, its people, long history, and its natural religious moderation cannot be a replica of Iran. It knows too that it cannot experience what happened in Iran, so the goal of kindling extremism and promoting its leadership was not to let either rule Egypt, which is impossible by any standard, but to let it become a thorn in the regime's side for use when necessary. The story of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and terrorism in Egypt expresses that goal. The United States, which made this man, knows this and knows that we in Egypt know it too. Until a few months ago, events did not require raising this issue between Egypt and the United States. 'Umar

'Abd-al- Rahman's presence in the United States benefited it, but did not bother Egypt.

But the recent terrorist crimes in Egypt and the U.S. agencies' indirect encouragement—highlighting 'Abd-al-Rahman and his attacks on Egypt and the Egyptian regime in the U.S. media just when these crimes occurred—meant Egypt could not overlook these incidents. Egypt was forced to declare the truth: "Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is a CIA agent. The U.S. Administration got the message: "Egypt's patience has run out." The U.S. Administration had to move fast to save the situation. Things began to unfold: A case was brought against 'Abd-al-Rahman in the United States, and he was accused of violating U.S. immigration laws. This was followed by the drama of 'Abd-al-Rahman's arrest. Whether the curtain will fall on this issue today or after months or years, the good tidings have come: The two most dangerous leaders of terrorism and extremism, al-Safti and Abu-al-'Ila, have been arrested in Cairo. The rest will follow.

As for the United States, all we can tell it is that people make their leaders. Egypt has made its leader. No other false leader created abroad can succeed with us, not even as a pressure card. O America, the lesson is over.

Israelis Reportedly Involved in Recent Explosions

NC1907161893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Jul 93 p 10

[Report by Amin Radwan from Cairo]

[Excerpts] Egyptian sources have revealed that high-ranking security circles received information about an Israeli role in the increasing tension in Egypt, particularly in recent explosions. The sources noted that signs of this role, which clearly benefits from the ongoing conflict between the Egyptian authorities and the armed Islamic resistance, appeared after the Wadi al-Nil Cafe blast in al-Tahrir Square in February. These circles found several signs indicating an Israeli hand behind the acts of violence in Egypt, but did not deny Islamic groups' involvement in attacks against tourists and security bodies, particularly security officers, in some governorates. But the security circles expressed their belief that foreign parties penetrated these groups.

The first sign of Israel's complicity was the discovery of a depot of light arms and explosives in north Sinai a few weeks ago. This incident uncovered Israeli officer Abu Haron's activities. He works in Rafah on the border between north Sinai and occupied Palestine. He is involved in smuggling arms and drugs and gathering information from Israeli tourists who visit Egypt and return to Israel by land. The second sign emerged after two people were interrogated and detained recently in Alexandria. These two people visited the Israeli Consulate and traveled to Israel several times. The items seized in their possession included chemicals that could be used to manufacture explosives and the nails used in the blasts in Shubra and the al-Harm underground.

The Egyptian security circles noted that the Israeli Cultural Center and the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria were the centers for planning the terrorist acts. [passage omitted]

Information revealed that Israeli intelligence transferred more than 20 cadres for multifaceted work at the Israeli Cultural Center and the Israeli Consulate. According to this information, there is a direct connection between the perpetrators of the explosions in the Cairo and al-Jizah Governorates and the workers at these two centers.

Interior Ministry agencies earlier announced that they detained some of the perpetrators, but did not say whether they belong to the Islamic groups. Egyptian security sources said the Israeli Consulate helped to bring in more than 40 Uzi submachine guns. They noted that the consulate considers the Israeli Cultural Center vital for stockpiling arms. In view of this information, the Egyptian authorities deported 10 workers from the Israeli Consulate and Cultural Center.

Cairo International Airport security agencies deported three Israelis working for Israeli airlines two weeks ago. Egyptian security agencies tightened entry at land posts in Sinai recently. Three technical agencies belonging to three official departments control the border posts. [passage omitted]

Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah Claims Cairo Attacks

NC1907185793 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, July 19 (AFP)—The extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] movement on Monday [19 July] claimed an attack in Cairo that left four people dead—a police captain mistaken for a military court judge and three of its own members.

In a statement received by AFP, the al-Jama'ah said three members of its armed cells carried out "a retaliatory attack" aimed at General Ahmad 'Abdallah, the chairman of the military courts that passed 13 death sentences against Islamic militants in recent months.

The militants opened fire Sunday on the car of General 'Uthman Shahin, army commander for the central Egyptian region, mistaking him for 'Abdallah.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, himself a survivor of a failed assassination bid by fundamentalists, had denied that an army general was the target in the attack.

The daily AL-AKHBAR said the Muslim militants were aiming at a police patrol.

On July 8, the al-Jama'ah threatened to avenge the hangings of Muslim fundamentalists, saying that through such executions President Husni Mubarak was "digging his own grave."

Earlier Monday, more than 1,000 people including the interior minister, General Hasan al-Alfi, Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din, and the Mufti of Egypt, Shaykh Husayn Tantawi, attended the funeral of Captain Ahmad al-Biltaji, the policeman killed in the attack.

A campaign of fundamentalist violence which erupted in Egypt in March 1992 has killed 173 people, including tourists, Coptic Christians, policemen and others, according to an AFP toll.

In April and May General 'Abdallah sentenced 13 people to death, one of them in absentia. All 12 of the condemned people in custody have been executed in recent days.

Defendant in al-Sadat Assassination Arrested

NC1907171493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Khalid Idriss]

[Text] The state security intelligence service has discovered a new plan to violate public security and commit terrorist acts. Security organs in al-Jizah yesterday arrested one of the fugitives charged with the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat. The fugitive, Muhammad Ahmad 'Ali Hasan, is wanted by the state security intelligence. Interrogations revealed that the defendant traveled to an Arab country, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. He received military training in Afghanistan and returned to Egypt a month ago to convey orders to his collaborators to carry out terrorist acts. The state security intelligence service is continuing interrogations with the defendant to uncover the plan and arrest the other members of the organization.

Suitcase Containing Bombs Found in Heliopolis

NC1907210093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—The Civil Defense and Fire Departments in Cairo today found a black suitcase thrown in an empty plot of land at the crossroads of Hasan Lutfi and Manshiyat al-Bakri Streets in Heliopolis, in Cairo

The Civil Defense and Fire Department experts inspected the suitcase and found that it contained four hand grenades, four smoke bombs, two tear gas bombs, six smoke bullets, and some hand-grenade shells.

A source in the Civil Defense department thinks that the contents of the suitcase belonged to some terrorists who tried to get rid of them by throwing them into the empty lot. The source believes they did not want to create any explosions, because upon examining the bombs it became evident that they were not attached to timers or remote control devices, which means they were not set to explode.

Security men are trying their utmost to find the owners of the abandoned the suitcase.

Libya

Envoy to UN Discusses 'Crisis' With West

NC2007101593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to the United Nations 'Ali al-Hudayri in New York by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" Program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] What is the situation between the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah and the West in light of the offers Libya has made to resolve the crisis peacefully?

[Al-Hudayri] As everyone knows, from the beginning the Jamahiriyah cooperated fully with Security Council resolutions to show goodwill and achieve security for our Arab region and the world. Since the beginning, my country extended all required cooperation in line with Security Council resolutions. Various views have been presented, political and legal, and my country has always been prepared to cooperate on this issue in line with the implementation of Security Council resolutions and respect for sovereignty and international laws.

My country has done enough by presenting various practical, constructive proposals, including agreeing to try the two suspects in a third country to ensure a fair and just trial. I believe it is a legitimate demand in harmony with international laws and achieves justice for everyone.

The other parties' insistence that the two suspects be handed over to the United States and Britain has been the sole impediment to solving this problem. If those parties accept our proposal, it is possible to reach a solution that would save the region more needless problems. This is especially true because our region is experiencing numerous dangers and threats and I do not believe that it needs more. Libya plays an important role in the region's stability, whether it is in relations with Egypt or with the Arab Maghreb. It is very important that we find a solution to this problem that protects all parties and respects national sovereignty and international legitimacy. I believe that through these efforts my country has tried to cooperate with all parties in good faith. I believe that the opinions issued by all regional organizations—the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement—confirm this intention and encourage the parties concerned to find a solution protecting all parties. This is what Libya proposed and it is willing to sit down with the parties concerned within the context of Security Council Resolution 731 to reach an acceptable formula that will save all parties from any further tension. My country has accepted this and we have always been ready

to reach a peaceful solution that respects international law, whether politically or legally.

[Abu-al-Majd] How do you explain rejection by the other parties—we mean the United States and the West—of these Libyan proposals?

[Al-Hudayri] We cannot find a logical explanation, especially if these parties are seeking the truth. The truth should be reached through a trial irrespective of its venue. Libya has not insisted that this trial be held in Libya, although it is our right guaranteed by international laws. Within the framework of cooperation, Libya has shown its readiness to accept a political trial in another country, but we do not know why the other parties insist that the trial be held in their countries. They know this is a violation of international law because no country hands over its nationals except under international accords or under international law.

There might have been a political justification at a certain time, but I do not believe that there is a justification for the continuation of this intransigence, especially since it does not even serve the other side's interests. Any increased tension in the region will affect everyone. We have always advised that these parties reach an agreement within the context of respect for the law to find a formula that would protect everyone.

[Abu-al-Majd] If Britain and the United States insist on trying the suspects in the explosion of the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie in Britain or in the United States and attempt to escalate sanctions against Libya, what will be Libya's stance?

[Al-Hudayri] First, we have defined our stance on this issue. Regarding the trial, the Libyan stance has been defined. The Libyan people and the Arab nation in the region have suffered because of this problem, which is based on nothing but an accusation. A whole country and a whole region has been punished without a ruling or evidence.

As to what will happen if these parties insist on pursuing this policy, I believe it will not contribute to the region's stability and it will not be wise to create further tension, especially because we are already witnessing tension in the region. I believe it will be wise, as world public opinion strongly demands through its various regional and international organizations, to sit down with Libya and find a solution.

Why is a trial in a third country not acceptable? Let it be in Europe or in a place acceptable to the parties concerned, if the aim is to reach a solution.

[Abu-al-Majd] In other words, you insist that the two suspects be tried in a third country?

[Al-Hudayri] We welcome a trial because it will provide an opportunity for the two suspects to clear themselves, to learn the truth, and to spare Libya and the region more tension and problems.

[Abu-al-Majd] Ambassador al-Hudayri, Libya's permanent envoy to the United Nations, the program is almost over and we ask you to continue this dialogue at the same time tomorrow morning because we have many questions on this subject. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

[Al-Hudayri] Thank you and thanks to the Voice of the Arabs.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Congratulates Saddam on Anniversary

EA1707161393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has sent a congratulatory cable to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the brotherly Republic of Iraq, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the 17 July glorious revolution, in which he expressed his hope that God will render the Iraqi people and the Islamic nation victorious over their enemies and that the word of the Arab nation will be unanimous.

Moreover, Mr. 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid 'Ali, ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Sudan, made a speech on this occasion in which he affirmed that since its outbreak, the 17 July revolution has confirmed its Islamic-Arab nature and faces great challenges because of its rebellion against foreign influence. He pointed out in this respect the iniquitous aggression of the 30 states against Iraq, led by the United States, Britain, and France. He said that the suffering of the people of Iraq, Somalia, Palestine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina highlights the falseness of American imperialism and its Western allies and misleads public opinion to serve their aims of waging war against Arabism and Islam and states of the Third World.

His excellency the Iraqi ambassador explained that the recent American military attack on Baghdad is regarded as a mortal blow to the gains of humanity in freedom, the right to peace, and the right to life. He said Iraq has implemented all the commitments provided for in Resolution 687, which, as a result, obliges the Security Council to apply the 22d paragraph of the resolution and to lift the economic blockade from Iraq.

His excellency expressed the appreciation of the government and people of Iraq for Sudan's permanent adherence to justice regardless of parochial worldly interests. His excellency the Iraqi ambassador congratulated the Sudanese people and their leadership on the fourth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

TNA Ends Second Session, To Resume 18 Oct

EA1707160593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 16 July (SUNA)—Lieutenant-General 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command

Council and of the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree ending the business of the second session of the Transitional National Assembly effective 15 July. (?He also issued) a decree that the assembly (?should resume) the third session effective 18 October.

Minister Interviewed on Internal Developments

PM1607135593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 93 p 7

[Interview with Federal Government Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj by unidentified correspondent in Bonn; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has stressed that the recent cabinet reshuffle was in line with the requirements of the next phase. What are the features of that phase? What did you achieve in the past phase? Was the emphasis on consolidation of the regime?

[Al-Hajj] President al-Bashir's speech should be viewed in the light of the revolution's fourth anniversary. Indeed he spoke about a next phase based on consolidation of the federal system, which, as is known, is now a reality in Sudan. The next step is to strengthen it. We will concentrate on legal links between the provinces and the central government and on developing the economies and manpower of the provinces. The next phase may even see an increase in the number of provinces. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The new cabinet reshuffle has clearly strengthened the National Islamic Front [NIF]. How do you explain that?

[Al-Hajj] There is no increase in the NIF's influence. In fact, there is really no NIF. We have all participated in and strengthened the regime, but not as NIF members. The parties, including the NIF, have been dissolved since the revolution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Let us discuss the peace talks. The latest attempt was three months ago and reached a dead end. None of the parties has made a move to tackle that. What is your government's position now?

[Al-Hajj] I do not believe that we reached a dead end. The fact is that the rebel movement is now divided and its internal problems are more important than its problem with the government and do not allow it to make decisions. Clearly, the rebel movement's leaders are not the ones with whom we held talks in Nigeria. Had the matter been left to them, we would have reached an agreement.

[Correspondent] But continuation of the troubled situation might lead to international military intervention. These are the rumors. In your view, what will happen?

[Al-Hajj] I do not believe that intervention in Sudan is an option. The situation in Sudan cannot be likened to the situation in Somalia. There is a big difference. There is a government in Sudan, unlike Somalia, where all the government institutions collapsed when the intervention decision was made. As regards the south, the problems there are basically tribal. Would the United Nations interfere in such a situation? At any rate, the problems the UN forces are facing in Somalia are enough to deter any UN contemplation of intervention in any other country.

[Correspondent] What is your answer to the claims about the Sudanese Government's links with the Islamic groups of whom some members were recently arrested in New York?

[Al-Hajj] The New York case is a different matter. The Sudanese Government has no connection with any of the names mentioned in the case. As regards 'Imad Salim, he is Egyptian and was a member of the Egyptian Army and has links with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Denies Ummah Role in Alleged Coup Attempt

PM2007082593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Muhammad Sa'id Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Sudan's Stability Depends on Eradication of 'Coup Virus'"]

[Text] London, Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party, has called for the eradication of what he termed the "coup virus" in Sudan. He said that in order for the required stability to be achieved in the country "this virus must be eradicated, as it has infected Armed Forces officers and caused them to think primarily of coups and of seeking to seize power without any consideration of the harm incurred by the country."

Al-Mahdi pointed out in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that those who staged the military coup on 25 May 1969 had begun to think of and plan the matter in 1961, that those who staged the 30 June 1989 coup began their movement in 1971, and that those who wrote their military memoirs limited their writings to the coup idea and its uncovering or failure.

The former Sudanese prime minister said that the present regime has failed to solve Sudan's problems "and pursued erroneous policies that have brought it nothing but problems it cannot solve." He added that "in view of this impasse, some people are looking to foreign salvation and others are preparing for bloody conflicts. I disagree with these tendencies and believe that the Sudanese people should rely on their own capabilities, as they are the best means to salvage Sudan."

Al-Mahdi spoke of disagreements in the present regime's circles and of indications that it is difficult for the regime to continue. However, he added that "a political solution will impose itself because no matter how much arrogance

the regime displays and errors it makes the objective and realistic factors will impose themselves."

He denied any role for his party in what the authorities announced as an abortive attempted coup.

Western Sahara

Talks With Morocco Said at 'Difficult Stage'

Atmosphere of Meetings Detailed

LD1907142293 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Laayoune, 19 Jul, MAP—The talks between the leaders and shaykhs of the tribes in the Moroccan Western Sahara have entered a difficult stage after the first meeting held last Saturday [17 July] at the MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] headquarters in the Moroccan Saharan capital Laayoune, which was described by sources as a procedural one. [Words indistinct] the Laayoune meeting as reproducing the same scenario as that of the Geneva meeting at the end of last November, which failed because of the intransigence of the separatists.

The first session of the meeting was held last Saturday morning at the center for the handicapped between a delegation of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs, headed by Biadallah Mohamed Echeikh, and the Lahmada camps delegation, headed by Bechir Sayed. It was attended by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the representative of the UN secretary general charged with the Western Saharan issue. The meeting lasted for more than an hour. During the meeting, a statement from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali was read out, and the heads of the Royal Consultative Saharan Council and the Lahmada camps delegations made speeches, the contents of which were not disclosed.

According to UN official Erik Jensen and the separatists, this first session was considered "positive, taking place under good conditions." During the session, it was agreed that the meeting should be resumed on Saturday evening at the Hotel Parador where the two delegations are staying.

As soon as they returned to the hotel from the center for the handicapped, the separatists [Polisario] rekindled their intransigence and desire to abort the Laayoune talks by inventing a problem over the composition of the Moroccan Saharan delegation headed by Biadallah Mohamed Echeikh—which they had agreed to sit opposite at the morning session—by subsequently challenging the heading of the delegation by Biadallah Mohamed Echeikh, member of the Saharan Consultative Council and prefect of the city of Sale, which adjoins Rabat.

By fabricating this problem, the separatists strove misguidedly to realize their [word indistinct] to their ambition to give substance to the delusion of "direct negotiations" between Morocco and the Polisario, while truth confirms that the Laayoune meeting is in fact basically between a Moroccan Saharan delegation adhering to the Moroccan identity of the Western Sahara and the Lahmada camps delegation.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the special representative of the UN secretary general, met separately yesterday, Saturday evening [as received] with the Moroccan Saharan and camps delegations in an attempt to overcome the fabricated problem and resume the meeting. Despite the dinner that brought the two delegations together, the separatists persisted on Saturday evening and Sunday morning in their desire to [word indistinct] the meeting and wreck UN efforts to find a solution to the Saharan question.

On the other hand, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said in a statement that was read out at the first opening session that he hoped the Laayoune meeting will constitute a decisive step toward reactivating the process, which has been hampered for several months, and will provide for the creation of a climate of cooperation, trust, and forgiveness that will allow the organization of the referendum without delay and according to plans.

Butrus-Ghali said that the meetings he held in various capitals after his latest visit to the region have brought out two basic points: first, that the United Nations is now determined to solve the Saharan problem after awaiting a solution to it for years and a guarantee that the process that has started is irreversible; and second, that no side has the right to deprive the inhabitants under its control of the right to self-determination.

This point is addressed to the separatists who want to wreck the referendum process and deprive those detained in the Lahmada camps from taking part in the referendum. This point also stresses that the United Nations is committed to the referendum plans for the inhabitants. Butrus-Ghali implied that the patience of the United Nations has been exhausted by the procrastination that has affected the efforts aimed at solving the Saharan issue. He indicated that the United Nations, after investing great efforts and resources in the peace process in the Sahara, is expecting both parties to participate constructively in the peace process by sticking to a fixed timetable until a permanent solution. He added that the United Nations cannot wait forever for the expected difficult decisions to be made if the peace process is derailed.

Ambassador Denies Talks Halted

LD1907122593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] In a telephone interview with AFP, the Saharan ambassador to Algeria denied reports that the negotiations taking place in Laayoune between the Moroccan

and Saharan delegations since last Saturday [17 July] had halted. An AFP cable had reported the halting of the negotiations, citing official Saharan sources. The Saharan ambassador pointed out in his denial of the report that the talks will resume today in Laayoune.

Talks Described as 'Trapped'

LD1907205393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Are they meeting or not? Since morning in Laayoune, there have been questions about the suspension of the negotiations. However, the report was quickly denied, and the two sides—the Saharan and the Moroccan—met in an evening session that is said not to have been fruitful. Na'ima Driti reports:

[Driti] Laayoune negotiations between the Polisario and Morocco over the procedures of a referendum for self-determination in the Western Sahara ended this evening with a final session that allowed the two parties to explain their points of view toward the UN-supervised peace process.

It appears, however, according to well-informed sources, that the talks remained trapped within the protocol framework during which the two sides did not touch upon topics of substance, starting with establishing the identity of the Saharan voters.

The most important protocol stumbling block was Morocco's rejection of the Saharan delegation's condition that a senior Moroccan Government official attend in the Moroccan delegation instead of the Saharan tribal leaders who were appointed to these negotiations.

Awaiting a UN statement, as was initially agreed, the Saharan delegation departed Laayoune this evening. Before departing, its leader, Bechir Mustapha Sayed, said: This is the start of dialogue.

Biadallah Mohamed Echeikh, head of the Moroccan delegation, described these negotiations as being exploratory. Erik Jensen, head of the UN committee in charge of setting the electoral commission, confirmed the positive and important character of the Laayoune meeting, which can be followed by other meetings in Paris or Geneva.

Ambassador on Results of Talks

LD2007030593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Interview with Mohamed Lamine Ahmed, ambassador to Algeria, by correspondent Bachir Hdeibal; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hdeibal] Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador, the meeting, which brought together the two delegations of the Western Sahara and Morocco, ended this afternoon without any information leaking from it. Has the meeting failed, or has an agreement been reached on the criteria for the selection of voters' list, or will the consultations continue in the future?

[Lamine] Thank you very much. As everybody knows that the Polisario delegation went to Laayoune with the will to solve the pending issues, and subsequently, to try to seek the most appropriate way to implement the peace plan. So the facet or the myth of this meeting is in this sphere. This is the first point. The second point is that we were surprised, or our delegation in Laayoune was surprised, that the Moroccan Government tried to mix up the official Moroccan delegation to turn it into what it called the consultative council. The so-called consultative council is nonexistent legally. It rather, like any occupation that exists in any country, tries to bestow legitimacy on its existence by creating some kind of body. These bodies are not recognized.

The plot is clear. There are two parties in the conflict—the Polisario and the Moroccan Government. Before the delegation headed to Laayoune, it was told that the Moroccan delegation was headed by his excellency the Moroccan ambassador to the UN, Ahmed Senoussi. But in the framework of the sudden moves of that delegation, we were surprised the day before yesterday that the list that was presented was the so-called consultative council. Despite that, the United Nations played a role—which cannot be slighted and we thank it—to narrow differences in opinion on the basis that all sides may say all that they have to say.

Of course, in the framework of these consultations, either in the headquarters of MINURSO [UN Mission for a Referendum in Western Sahara] or in the area where the two delegations resided, an agreement was reached that this session today would be the final session at 11 a.m. Every delegation expressed its point of view. Accordingly, this is the first meeting, and the United Nations, according to its promises, will play its role in continuing this dialogue. If the Saharans are belittled by the Moroccan Government [pauses]...that belittling unfortunately resulted in 18 years of fighting.

Accordingly, one cannot eliminate the Saharans militarily, and the Saharans cannot achieve a military success against Morocco. But annihilating the Saharan people has now become an impossibility.

[Hdeibal] Concerning this round of talks or that meeting, were any positive or tangible results achieved?

[Lamine] The only positive result is that we met, officially. As for exploring the depths of the issue, that did not happen.

[Hdeibal] That means that we can expect a series of other meetings organized by the United Nations in the future?

[Lamine] Without doubt, unless, God forbid, our opponents in Morocco come up with initiatives to create an air of ambiguity.

[Hdeibal] Was a date for the meetings set by the United Nations during this meeting?

[Lamine] I have no information.

[Hdeibal] Mr. Ambassador, the talks were broken off yesterday. They were resumed at noon today at a meeting that did not last long. What caused the break, and why did the Saharan delegation return to meet once again with the Moroccan delegation?

[Lamine] There was no break. No, there was no break. Only a misinterpretation on the part of some newsmen that the return of the delegation today meant a break. No, there was no break. What happened was that there were consultations between the two sides and the United Nations to arrive at what we have arrived at today at this final session.

[Hdeibal] In the shadow of this breakthrough, which took place during the first meeting, can we say that the referendum on self-determination will be held at the end of the current year as planned?

[Lamine] I do not think so. This is because of numerous factors. The first is that the two sides, the Polisario and the Moroccan Government, had not agreed on the voters or the type of voters. This is the first point. Even if they agreed on who is to vote, the operation of counting them anew requires months if not a year. Therefore, it has become very difficult for us to say that this year will be the referendum year.

But I think that with closer points of view in the future between Morocco and the Polisario, this requires time in order to carry out a census and to decide who has the right to vote. Therefore, it is a long, drawn-out operation. I do not think that in the near future the two sides will agree on something definite, because we say in accordance with the UN plan that the Spanish census in 1974 is the only neutral census. This census is the one that was originally proposed by the Moroccan Government and not proposed by the Polisario. We accepted it on the basis that it is a neutral census.

Naturally, everyone knows that the Moroccan Government wants to add double this number on the basis of ensuring the results of the referendum. Therefore, there is a difference between the desire and the fact that exists in the peace plan. Therefore, the talks or the dialogue that is now in the primary stage may reach a result in the future if there is a genuine will from the Rabat government.

[Hdeibal] From this platform, Mr. Ambassador, can we know the methods that would be used by the Polisario in the future if the Moroccan authorities procrastinated or hampered the peace project and added to the tension of the situation there?

[Lamine] You know that the Saharan population is small—one of the smallest of the nations of this area. But nevertheless, they managed to put up a resistance for a long period. No one expected or imagined that this small nation could remain steadfast all these years. The war was imposed on it in the beginning, and it never lost its desire for peace. From the beginning, there was a desire for peace. If we had applied the referendum in 1975, innocent lives would not have been taken in the Western Sahara or even in Morocco, because the war spread well into Moroccan territory.

If the United Nations is to (?supervise) the operation, which is the first of its kind....[pauses] It will be for the first time that permanent members of the UN Security Council have had forces in the Western Sahara. For the first time, international observers and the United Nations bear responsibility for supervising and organizing the referendum. If the referendum fails, the option remains the same for the Saharans. They can never accept being exterminated or being brought to their knees overnight. We do not wish to reach this difficult choice, because there are some calculations by our brothers in Morocco, namely that the front today is weak and that even its allies are living through many problems. Consequently, Morocco acts on these calculations. But the front is in good health, and its friends and allies have been taking firm stands alongside it. With regret, if the United Nations fails, there is no other choice except to continue the battle.

We are advocates of peace and search for peace. If we were not, we would not have gone to the town of Laayoune, which is occupied by Morocco. Nor would we have gone to Marrakesh in order to meet with King Hassan II in 1989. Therefore, this is our choice, and this our direction. We helped the United Nations and gave very big concessions.

We allowed 65,000 Moroccan soldiers to stay in the Sahara. We allowed more than 200,000 settlers. We allowed a Moroccan administration to exist and a Moroccan police force and allowed the decision on how numerous these forces would be to be based on the UN-organized referendum. The referendum would be free and honest and democratic and Saharans would cast their final vote. But if we do not reach this result, namely, the search for peace, the military forces there will impose one reply. It is a military reply.

[Hdeibal] In conclusion, does this mean that the peaceful choice is the only way out for this issue?

[Lamine] Experience proved, as I said at the beginning of my talk, that the Moroccans cannot destroy the Saharans, nor can the Saharan people defeat Morocco militarily. Therefore, the direction toward peace is the more ideal choice. If the war continued, it might go on for centuries. Other generations have lost their fathers and mothers, and they cannot negotiate over anything else except independence. At least, the Saharans will have their say.

Butrus-Ghali: Talks Promising

LD2007103293 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Laayoune, 20 Jul (MAP)—The meetings between the delegations of the Royal Consultative Council for

Saharan Affairs, headed by Biadallah Mohamed Echeikh, and Lahmada camps, headed by Bechir Mustapha Sayed, ended yesterday in Laayoune city, capital of the Western Sahara. A Moroccan statement distributed among journalists at Laayoune described the negotiations as having been conducted in a calm atmosphere.

On the other hand, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali expressed his satisfaction over the Laayoune meeting. A spokesman for the secretary general added that despite the thorny issues that were discussed by the two parties, the general atmosphere in which the negotiations were conducted was good and promising. He expressed his hopes that the negotiations would be resumed in the next few days. The spokesman said that Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, special representative of the UN secretary general, who attended the negotiations as an observer, is prepared to work to achieve positive results out of these talks.

Kuwait

Imminent Reconciliation With Jordan, PLO 'Ruled Out'

JN1907174593 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Jun 93 p 1

[By Mahmud 'Abd-al-Qadir]

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, June 29—Kuwait ruled out on Tuesday any imminent reconciliation with Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, but said it was reviewing ties with other Arab countries that were sympathetic to Iraq during the Gulf War.

"Under the prevailing circumstances, there is no room for even thinking of a reconciliation with Jordan and the PLO being at the vanguard of states that caused harm to Kuwait and its people," the deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said in a key-note address to the National Assembly.

Shaykh Sabah addressed the Assembly during the weekly session in response to a motion by five MPs to discuss the lastest changes in Kuwait's foreign policy especially relations with Arab countries that supported Iraq during the invasion. After Shaykh Sabah read the government statement on foreign policy, the Assembly approved a proposal to refer the whole issue to a joint Assembly committee comprising members from the Interior and Defense and Foreign Relations Committee. No discussion took place on the issue.

The foreign minister said that there are many conditions and considerations that necessitate us to respond to new signals from some Arab states which supported Iraq. "We need to study this issue in order to adopt an appropriate response towards some signals of change in the attitude of a number of Arab countries which supported the Iraqi invasion. But under the present circumstances, any study should not include Jordan and PLO," Shaykh Sabah said.

But Shaykh Sabah made it clear that any normalization of relations will have to be conditioned. He outlined a set of conditions which these countries have to fulfill before reconciliation. "First and foremost, these countries must denounce and reject the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. They should call upon Iraq to comply with the U.N. Security Council resolutions relevant to its aggression on Kuwait, especially the release of Kuwaiti and other POWs. They should call on the Iraqi regime to comply with the results of the border demarcation made by the U.N. Boundary Demarcation Commission. They should call upon the Iraqi regime to stop its claims in Kuwait and respect its sovereignty."

Policy

Shaykh Sabah added that Arab countries interested in improving ties with Kuwait should respect international legality, sovereignty of countries and their rights in their natural resources and the right to guarantee means of defense. He also asked these countries to consider the Iraqi regime as the cause of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

He reaffirmed that any new development in Kuwait's foreign policy will be directed to serve Kuwait's interests and is related to the continuous struggle with the Iraqi regime." He added that utilisation of positive attitudes of these Arab countries in favour of Kuwait and against the Iraqi regime would "certainly help in strengthening the isolation of that regime."

Kuwaitis for generations to come would appreciate the support of Egypt and Syria, whose troops were part of a multinational military coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February 1991, Shaykh Sabah said.

Shaykh Sabah was commenting on Kuwait's latest change in foreign policy towards some Arab countries which sided with Iraq. Tunisian foreign minister Habib Ben Yahya visited Kuwait two weeks ago and his visit caused a controversy between supporters and opponents. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister

LD2007093493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, received this afternoon in his palace in Jeddah His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen Muhammad Salim Bisandwah. [passage omitted]

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 2245 GMT on 19 July, in a Jeddah-datelined item, reports: "His Excellency the Foreign Affairs Minister in the Republic of Yemen Muhammad Salim Basindwah left Jeddah this evening."]

United Arab Emirates

* Country Said 'Major Beneficiary' of Gulf War

93ES0809A Paris LE FIGARO (LE FIG-ECO SUPPLEMENT) in French 7 Jul 93 p xi

[Article by Gerard Nicaud: "Emirates the Major Beneficiary of the War"]

[Text] *Contrary to what is occurring among their neighbors, business in the Emirates has recovered the levels that prevailed before the conflict with Iraq.*

The United Arab Emirates [UAE] are without a doubt the country that has most benefited from the Gulf War, in that, on the heels of the reduction in oil production by Kuwait, the UAE's quota within the OPEC was raised

from 1.5 percent to 2.2 percent. It is being met principally by Abu Dhabi, the biggest of the emirates, whose capital is also the capital of the federation.

Dubayy, the UAE's other big emirate, has also resumed its role of revolving platform between the West and the East, particularly for countries such as Iran and the CIS. In Saudi Arabia, on the contrary, business has not recovered its pre-crisis rhythm, says a Western diplomat stationed in Abu Dhabi.

Last year, the GDP of the UAE totaled $35 billion, equivalent to the total GDP of the other four small countries of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], which consists of six countries: the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar—and a giant, Saudi Arabia.

Good Relations With France

"The Emirates' strong card," says France's ambassador in Abu Dhabi, Bernard Poletti, "is the multipolar nature of their activities. Adding to Abu Dhabi's oil is Dubayy's commercial and industrial powerhouse." Dubayy represents 40 percent of the Emirates' industrial activity.

This complementarity does not preclude separateness. While they are closely united militarily, monetarily, and diplomatically, the Emirates are nonetheless jealous of their prerogatives. The most striking example: The UAE are members of OPEC, but Dubayy is not. Dubayy therefore produces as much oil as it wants to produce, and Abu Dhabi adapts its production so that the UAE, as a whole, complies with its quota. Actually, unlike Abu Dhabi, Dubayy is but a small oil producer.

An apparent complexity that in no way prevents France from entertaining good political as well as commercial relations with the UAE: The Total company has been Abu Dhabi's principal oil partner for the past 30 years; Giat Industries sold some 439 tanks to Abu Dhabi (the first military contract in the Middle East since the Gulf War that failed to be awarded to the Americans); more recently, on 10 March, Technip signed a contract worth some 7 billion francs[Fr], to develop gas deposits at Bab/Habshan in the Abu Dhabi Emirate, as part of a consortium with the American firm Bechtel.

Good Payers

As a result, says Jean-Claude Gallet, commercial attache at the French Embassy, "the UAE has become our second largest trading partner in the region (editor's note: after Saudi Arabia). French exports to Abu Dhabi rose 43 percent last year." Even though some of that spectacular rise in our sales is explained by purchases of Airbuses, says Mr. Gallet, "our market share last year was 5.7 percent of total UAE imports, versus an average of 3.2 to 3.5 percent only a very few years ago. We expect to reach 7 percent very soon, which will be in line with our share of the market on a world scale."

There is a cloud, however, in the blue sky described by Mr. Gallet: the absence of big French BTP [Buildings and Public Works] groups in Abu Dhabi. "They were very much present in the halcyon days, but have left, although construction continues."

A hope, however: Jerome Monod (Lyonnaise Dumez) and Martin Bouygues went to the UAE recently to evaluate the market. "Let's not forget," says Mr. Poletti, "that the Emirates are not in a recession. Last year, aside from oil, they posted a growth of 4.5 to 5 percent." (editor's note: including oil, 2.5 percent).

Also, it is not to be forgotten, Mr. Gallet continues, "that they are members of the ever-shrinking club of good payers."

France ranks fifth among the UAE's trading partners (not counting countries in the zone), below Japan, the United States, Great Britain, and Italy.

Recent contracts signed with French groups include the one with Technip, which, besides the gas deposits at Bab/Habshan, will computerize the operation of the refinery at Umm Al Nar (Fr100 million). The equipment will include Cegelec instrumentation. And York, a small French firm, which has already distinguished itself manufacturing artificial snow in Jordan, will build cold storage plants in the UAE for a total of Fr45 million.

Over the longer term, Aeroport de Paris is well positioned to double the size of the Dubayy airport and build hangars for the private air fleet owned by Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who presides over the destinies of the country.

With respect to investments within the country, Jean-Claude Gallet recognizes that France is not too well positioned. In Abu Dhabi, for example, there are not more than some 15 industrial enterprises involving French capital, and the number of offices providing permanent representation of French firms does not exceed some 50-odd.

[Box, p xi]

Fairs and Expositions

With the elimination of Iraq from the circuit and the reconstruction of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates are becoming the zone's fairs and expositions center, with respect to which, Abu Dhabi and Dubayy tacitly play mutually complementary roles. Around the end of April, for example, the Abu Dhabi International Fair, ADIF 93, was held in Abu Dhabi. This fair, says Al-Haj Bin Abdullah al-Mohairby, president of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "is destined to become one of the region's most important general fairs."

It did not begin, however, under the most favorable of auspices. Its first edition, ADIF 91, opened on 15 January 1991, two days before the start of the Gulf conflict.

Abu Dhabi already enjoys a high reputation in connection with another fair that is held throughout the zone, the IDEX, specializing in defense equipment. The IDEX is at the origin of the sale of the 400 Leclerc tanks to the UAE. To become the counterpart of the IDEX in the civil domain, the ADIF drew on the know-how of the Brussels Fair.

Some 650 exhibitors took part in the second edition, including several big French firms—Total, Peugeot-Citroen, Siplast, etc., but small and medium-sized ones such as Aspi-Dust (professional vacuum cleaners, based in the Midi-Pyrenees), Molteni (ovens for professional use, based in Rhone-Alpes), and Lux Ocean (fine leather goods made of fish skins, based in Bretagne) also had their stands there.

"The presence of these firms," says Pierre Godosz, the Brussels Fair representative in France, "was made possible from a financial viewpoint by a dual aid: On the one hand, the stand was financed to the extent of 50 percent by the EEC, plus 25 percent by COFACE [French Foreign Trade Insurance Company]. On the other hand, 50 percent of the transportation expenses of the exhibitors and their merchandise, as well as their stay, were covered by COFACE." These were reimbursable in the event of commercial success.

Yemen

Qatari Foreign Minister Arrives in Sanaa

Comments on Relations

JN1707054593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Qatari Foreign Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani arrived in Sanaa this afternoon leading a high-level Qatari delegation on a visit to our country. During the visit, the Qatari minister will hold talks with Yemeni officials on the special relations between our country and the fraternal State of Qatar.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the brother Qatari minister said it is his extreme pleasure to visit our country. He indicated his visit comes as part of consultations with our country on issues of mutual interest, Arab issues, and recent international developments.

Asked by a SABA' correspondent for his views on Yemeni-Qatari ties in light of current Arab and Gulf developments, the Qatari foreign minister said: Yemeni-Qatari ties date back to ancient times. They have always been good. They have remained good, even in the darkest circumstances. They are marked by clarity and frankness. These ties are based on solid foundations. If there are differences of opinion between the two countries, or anything of the sort, this will not undermine the special ties between Yemen and Qatar.

When queried about the roles Yemen and Qatar could play to restore Arab solidarity, the brother Qatari minister said: We believe the response to the efforts to restore Arab solidarity has been good so far. However, things must be handled prudently and quietly so Arab solidarity can be reestablished on sound foundations. God willing, we hope all Arab states, not only Yemen and Qatar, will contribute to such a reconciliation so we can cope with the current ordeal. At the same time, all the factors that contributed to the ordeal must be examined carefully. We must lay down the foundations to preclude a repeat of this ordeal so Arab solidarity will not again be plagued with similar disunity.

The brother Qatari minister and his delegation were welcomed upon their arrival in Sanaa by brother Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah; brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Jahhaf, Yemeni ambassador in Doha; and brother Muhammad Nasir al-Fadalah, Qatari charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

President Receives Al Thani

JN1707153293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, today received Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Al Thani, foreign minister of sisterly Qatar, who conveyed to the president a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar.

In his message, Shaykh Khalifah congratulated the president on the occasion of the 17th of July and the 15th anniversary of the president's assumption of the responsibility of leading the homeland's march.

The message also dealt with the warm fraternal relations and the aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways of fostering and developing them in a manner that serves the interests of the two fraternal peoples. It also dealt with a number of issues and developments that concern the two countries and the Arab nation, led by ways of consolidating Arab solidarity, and realizing cohesion between the sons of the Arab nation.

Discussions at the meeting focused on consolidating fraternal relations and expanding horizons of mutual cooperation in all fields.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the foreign minister, and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Jahhaf, our country's ambassador to Qatar. From the Qatari side, the meeting was attended by Shaykh Mish'al Bin-Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the members of the delegation accompanying the Qatari foreign minister, and the Qatari charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Official Talks Held

JN1707154993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Official talks between our country and sisterly Qatar were held at the Foreign Ministry today, headed by Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the foreign minister, and His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister.

Friendly speeches were delivered at the meeting. The foreign minister welcomed Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani and his delegation on their visit to Yemen, and said this visit reflects the depth of relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

He emphasized that the spheres of cooperation between the two countries will be developed in the interest of the two fraternal peoples, and referred to the importance of contacts and meetings between officials in the two countries, which will bolster bilateral relations.

For his part, Shaykh Hamad expressed his gratitude for the generous hospitality and warm reception he and his delegation received. He conveyed the greetings of the Qatari people to the Yemeni people. He said Qatari-Yemeni relations are deep-rooted in history due to the presence of a Yemeni community in Qatar before the independence of Qatar, a community that Qatar is proud of.

He emphasized the importance of the talks and renewal of bilateral cooperation and relations in the interest of the two countries.

Talks dealt with aspects of bilateral relations and Arab and international developments of mutual interest. The viewpoints of both sides were identical on the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and unify Arab ranks in a manner that enables our Arab nation to confront the serious challenges it is facing. They stressed the importance of continuous contacts among the Arab countries to conduct dialogue and understanding toward restoring unity to the Arab ranks.

The talks were attended by Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayb, the Foreign Ministry's undersecretary for political affairs; Ibrahim 'Abdallah Sa'idi, the undersecretary for administrative and financial affairs; and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Jahhaf, our country's ambassador to Qatar; and the members of the delegation accompanying the Qatari foreign minister.

A meeting was held between Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the foreign minister, and Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister. Shaykh Mish'al Bin Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, member of the accompanying delegation, attended the meeting.

Jihad Leaders To Stand Trial in Aden

PM2007092093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Plan To Assassinate Security Officials in Aden Uncovered; Sanaa Pursues Jihad Leaders and Arab Figures Through Interpol"]

[Text] A senior Yemeni official has revealed new details concerning the Jihad organization in Yemen and the upcoming public trials of the organization's leaders who admitted their responsibility for the explosions in Aden at the end of last year and a number of political assassinations.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the trials, due to be conducted at the end of August, of the Jihad organization elements implicate Yemeni and Arab figures who participated in setting up and financing the organization.

The official added that, in light of the results of these trials, the Yemeni Government will pursue the Yemeni figures abroad and other Arab figures via Interpol in accordance with the appropriate international conventions.

The Yemeni official stressed that the person in charge of the Jihad organization's military wing in Yemen and the person in charge of the political wing visited Sudan last year, that is, six months before the Aden hotel bombings began. They stayed in Khartoum's biggest hotel until an Arab businessman arranged a meeting for them with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan.

The official added that the Arab businessman issued instructions to the two Jihad officials concerning the organization's activities in Yemen and also on its general structure. 'Adnan Iskandar was granted the speakership of the organization's shura council in Aden.

The official added that the investigations conducted with the organization's elements confirmed the existence of a shura council for the organization in every governorate, headed by a person selected by the organization's leadership in Sudan. Each shura council has a military official who supervises all the operations carried out, especially bombing and assassination operations, and designates elements from among elements recruited previously by the Jihad organization and the shura council to carry out these operations.

The official said that investigations with the suspects revealed that the organization's military wing trains its members in the use of arms and explosives and teaches them how to assemble explosive charges and steal arms from some camps in Aden, as happened at the 10th Brigade M/T [as published], from which a rocket was stolen and later found near Aden international airport. The operation targeted the base of the U.S. Marines, who used Aden airport to serve UN forces in Somalia.

The Yemeni official said in his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that one of the main suspects visited the Arab businessman's office in an Arab state more than once last year to meet with a key member of the Yemeni Jihad organization, who was discovered after the investigations to be a former member of the shura council for north Yemen and member of parliament after unification. It was also discovered that he had participated in operations opposed to the establishment of unity in al-Hudaydah.

The official said that one of the main suspects in the bombings case admitted that he had served in 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zanadani's guard for over six months, and that al-Zanadani urged them, in more than one preaching meeting, to maintain the jihad and take up arms as every Muslim's duty to fight any foreign presence in Aden, meaning the U.S. Marines.

The official added that the suspects' confessions and all available evidence prove that Yaslam Abu-Ra'sayn and Shaykh Tariq al-Fadli participated directly in all the Jihad organization's operations in Yemen, including the recent operation in Hadhramaut two months ago, in which Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah, commander of the Taysir Brigade, and two other officers were killed. One of the perpetrators was arrested and the other killed in the incident.

The official confirmed Shaykh Tariq al-Fadli's implication in the bombings in Aden, saying that he had strong links with those arrested; they admitted this and stated that al-Fadli had given some of them firearms (pistols), while another group was trained in "al-Maraqisah" mountain in Abyan Governorate.

The Yemeni official revealed that the assassination plan found with the suspects included Dr. 'Adnan al-Bid, director of Aden investigation office and son of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid; Rashid Jarhum, under secretary at the Interior and Security Ministry in Aden; and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shahidhi, director of public security in Aden. He pointed out that the intention was to carry out the plan to assassinate security figures in Aden either by installing explosive charges at the entrances to their homes, linked to the houses' doors so the charges would explode the moment the door was opened, or by booby-trapping their personal cars by watching their movements in the evenings.

The official stressed that there is a strong link between the Aden bombings and the political assassination plan drawn up to assassinate Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau [YSPPB] and adviser to the prime minister, and 'Ali Salih 'Abbad (Muqbil), member of the YSPPB and member of the present parliament's speakership committee, and the attempt to assassinate Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSPPB and former parliament speaker. The official said that the trials to be held in Aden and Abyan will reveal all the Jihad organization's activities and criminal responsibility for all the bombings, and the trials will be public.

The Yemeni official emphasized that Shaykh Tariq al-Fadli, who is currently being held in Sanaa, will be moved to Aden to appear before the court. He will stand trial before this court after the general prosecution office said it is important that he appear before the Aden court because of his link with all the crimes committed at the end of last year and in the light of all the evidence submitted to it in the criminal case file. The official said that all the suspects—43 of them—will stand trial on charges of carrying out subversive actions and forming extremist terrorist organizations with the intention of undermining the system and toppling the regime.

The official confirmed that one of the Arab suspects—a Libyan—had been handed over to his country's consulate in Aden in the presence of his father, who came to Yemen to receive his son, on the basis of considerations he declined to reveal.

Commentaries Discuss Results of Talks With UN

Ekeus Convinced of 'Legitimacy'

JN2007091793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0642 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that steadfastness, adherence to principles, and rejecting subservience are Iraq's only way to make the enemy retreat. The paper, in an editorial today, adds that Iraq's sovereignty and independence deserve everybody's sacrifices and readiness to defend them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reviews the march of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution, the circumstances, crises, and difficult challenges through which it passed, the 30-state aggression against Iraq, and the attempts to besiege Iraq, weaken it, and annul its role. The paper adds that throughout the struggle of our people, the voice of the leader of the people, Saddam Husyan, reassured his people about the inevitability of victory no matter how difficult or serious the challenges are and no matter which forces and potentials the enemy mobilize.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Iraq's victories, including its victory over Iran, have entrenched a general conviction—namely, Iraq is undefeated. Iraq is undefeated because it represents justice and possesses the requirements of victory, particularly faith, sacrifice, adherence to principles, and a historic leadership which can invest all factors of capability and use them in a creative way. The paper adds that this is why America—the source of all world evil—and its Zionist allies directly entered the conflict with Iraq, which cannot be defeated by regional or international forces as events have proved.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the rancorous decision-makers in America were infuriated by Iraq's successes and victories. They never thought that Iraq would survive and fulfill the promises of its leader after seeing superpowers and major powers collapsing, surrendering, or bowing to the American storm. Therefore, they abandoned all deterrence, values, and norms in fighting Iraq and its leader.

The paper says: Despite the harm they inflicted on the people of Iraq, despite the crimes they committed against this people, and despite using all that is in their possession, they failed. This is a great victory for Iraq and its leader. The paper adds: As part of their programmed schemes to avenge and harm Iraq, they began to fabricate crises, including the recent crisis on setting up cameras. This aimed at terrorizing the people of Iraq and pushing them to capitulation under the pressure of threats.

The paper stresses that Iraq emerged from all this with its head held high and its dignity protected following its rejection of threats and adherence to its firm principled stand. This convinced Ekeus of the legitimacy of Iraq's views and demands and to pledge that he will ask the Security Council to review the blockade in order to lift it, at least partially.

Dialogue With UN Encouraged

JN2007082093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2013 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Several sides with vested interests have been trying to hide a certain fact that bears reiterating. This fact is related to the method of dealing between Iraq and the United Nations and its resolutions, both now and in the past. Under its wise leadership, Iraq has adhered to its respect for the United Nations and its abidance by its resolutions, including those which were clearly unjust. Leader President Saddam Husayn has since 2 August 1990 been reiterating this fact in word and deed but this stand has been exposed to campaigns of generalization, disinformation, and doubt-casting by those whose records do not show a single instance of respect for the United Nations.

In view of these campaigns and the apparent international support for them, the Iraqi Government and people have realized the accumulation of injustice and the unjustified premeditation and hostility which aims to harm their present and future.

Human logic and civilization indicate dialogue as a method to reach a solution or to bring closer the views of two adversaries, bearing in mind that Iraq has never regarded itself or behaved as an adversary of the United Nations. Iraq considers the UN principles as its own. This fact is known to the United Nations and its bodies as well as it members, including those who have worked by all means to clothe their stand toward Iraq with UN garb in order to portray the United Nations as an adversary of Iraq. Indeed, they are aware of this fact. We also are aware of this fact and hence Iraq's desire and the desire of our leader Saddam Husayn to make this distinction. Our continuous call for dialogue was based on this fact. We wanted the United Nations to take its real role both in dealing with us and in dealing with others, based on the principle that it is not an adversary but an international organization that should take the role of an arbiter. One of the duties of the United Nations as an arbiter is to protect the rights of the peoples and countries that are members of it and not to tamper with their dignity and independence.

Again it seems necessary to reiterate our stand and to reaffirm the formulas by which we deal with the United Nations in order to dispel any smoke that has been created or that could be created. Again we find it necessary to say that dialogue is the civilized behavior that should be followed; dialogue through logic and law and with due respect for the rights and dignities of all parties concerned, and not through threats and intimidation from this or in the name of that because some regard threats and intimidation a means of dialogue.

Our people have been brought up to respect even our adversaries when they talk to us and dispute our arguments. We have been brought up not to regard with respect the arrogant and the pompous. Our knees do not shake when we hear threats or saber-rattling. We have been tested.

End to Embargo Urged

JN1904174193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Commentary by Faysal Mabruki, carried within the "Spotlight on the News" feature]

[Text] The talks held between Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, and Iraqi officials continued for five days. During the past few days, news agencies were engaged in promoting various scenarios about the results of the talks. The views of the Western media have been marked by disinformation and lies. The minds that control the Western media have forgotten that Iraq is clear and frank, that it cherishes the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international laws, that it rejects blackmail and exploitation, that it is committed to UN Security Council resolutions, and also that it cooperates with UN inspection teams and the Special Commission.

Given all this, the United Nations must make efforts to show its credibility vis-a-vis its international responsibilities by lifting the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq, particularly since this embargo is no longer justifiable, as all political observers have acknowledged. During the talks, which continued for a long time, Iraq was extremely clear with regard to its position toward the basic issues that concern Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and security, as well as the interests of the Iraqi people. Moreover, Iraq has clearly and positively spelled out the relationship between it and the UN Security Council on the one hand, and between it and the Special Commission on the other. It has submitted a position paper to Mr. Ekeus, addressed to the UN Security Council and the Special Commission, containing Iraq's position toward this relationship, and also toward the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Additionally, Iraq has reached an interim agreement with the Special Commission. And high-level technical talks will be held with the Special Commission in New York to discuss outstanding issues between Iraq and the Special Commission.

Mr. Ekeus, along with the Special Commission members accompanying him, has left Baghdad for Bahrain en route to New York. Prior to his departure from Baghdad, Mr. Ekeus said that he does not see any need for a fresh military action against Baghdad. He added: The agreement that we have reached with Iraq paves the way for an extensive political and technical dialogue.

Political observers have commented on these statements, saying: The world's conscience must awaken to remove the injustice being meted out to the Iraqi people, and to expose those who profess to be staunch advocates of democracy and human rights. The world peoples are now aware of all the facts. Similarly, they are also aware of the intentions of the international evil powers, which are bent on aggression. Hence, they have begun to ask their governments, as well as humanitarian and international organizations, to work by all means to lift the unfair embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, because it is an unjustifiable crime being committed against a militant people. Furthermore, the embargo has demonstrated the absence of political ethics. The only reason the embargo is being maintained is that there is a handful of evildoers who seek to dominate the world and plunder its resources in broad daylight. As for the Iraqi people, they have set an honorable example for all peoples, because they have opposed humiliation and enslavement and defied the colonialist powers by constructive action, enlightened firmness, and strong cohesion with their courageous and historic leadership.

Paper Denounces U.S.-British-Kuwaiti Naval Maneuvers

JN1907082693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has denounced the joint U.S.-British-Kuwaiti naval maneuvers in the Arabian Gulf.

In an article today, the paper asks: What does the beginning of the joint naval maneuvers signal?

Any political observer must ask himself such a question, especially if the issue is seen against the background of the immediate relationship now linking the Americans and their British allies with the subordinate al-Sabah family.

It is clear now that this means, for the decisionmakers in this shaykhdom, immediate, undisguised U.S. occupation. Otherwise, how come the greatest military power in the world is conducting joint maneuvers with a political insect by the name of al-Sabah?

The paper says what is happening now is not in the interest of the people of the Arabian Gulf, because major powers view things only with regard to their own interests. This has been indeed borne out by developments.

Iraq's constant position, despite the unjust embargo, the continuous plots, and the psychological and material pressure, stems from its firm, strong faith in the future.

The paper contrasts the great struggling role undertaken by the Iraqis and the subservient, servile role perfected by some rulers in the region, primarily the al-Sabah family, which is still trying to convince itself that its "forces" can conduct joint maneuvers on an equal footing with the Americans and the British.

Arab League Told of 14-15 Jul Air Incursions

JN1807140593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers continue to provide U.S., British, and French aircraft with facilities to violate Iraq's airspace and jeopardize its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued on 14-15 July to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These aircraft carried out 92 hostile air sorties on those two days.

The Iraqi delegate enclosed with his letter a list detailing these airspace violations, and requested that the letter be circulated among Arab League members as an official document.

Protest for 16-17 Jul Incidents

JN2007140693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1013 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace.

A message addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League yesterday explains that on 16 and 17 July, these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace after taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 122 hostile air sorties.

The message affirmed that these violations pose a serious threat to the security, sovereignty, and national unity of Iraq.

The Iraqi envoy asked that the message be distributed among the Arab League member states and enclosed with it a detailed list of these violations.

Syria Criticized Over Alleged Palestinian Travel Ban

JN1607185493 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Whose interests stand to gain from President Hafiz al-Asad regime's ban on the entry of Palestinians into Syria? Who stands to benefit from this conspiratorial measure against our people and cause?

We are aware of the objectives behind this measure, coming as it does at this particular moment. A number of lackeys of the United States and Zionism are putting pressure on our people so that they will acquiesce to U.S. and Zionist dictates and terms—more specifically the American-Zionist document of principles.

The al-Asad regime's measure is just one form of the pressure to which our people are being subjected. Palestinian students enrolled at Syrian universities—now spending their annual summer holidays with their relatives in the occupied homeland—will be hurt most by this action.

The decision that affects our students, who hold Jordanian passports with a two-year validity and who are residents of the West Bank, follows a ban on Palestinians holding Lebanese and Egyptian travel documents from entering Syria.

We know, as do our striving people and nation, that the decision was made in the wake of the 10th round of the Middle East peace talks as well as the following developments: The Palestinian rejection of the draft of the American-Zionist declaration of principles; Husni Mubarak's Damascus visit and the message he passed on from Shim'on Peres to Hafiz al-Asad; and the American envoy Dennis Poss' talks with Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus.

However, the truth that was lost on the Damascus rulers is that our Palestinian people will never bargain away their territory; nor will they submit to the blackmailing of Hafiz al-Asad and his co-conspirator Husni Mubarak—both of whom are hatching plots against our people and their historic national and inalienable rights.

Inevitably the question arises: Whose interests are advanced by denying the Palestinians entry to Syria, while the Syrian regime has opened the Damascus gates to all kinds of enemies?

Our people in Palestine and in Syria know that the Zionist movement is the sole beneficiary of Hafiz al-Asad's recent decision. The fact remains, though, that our people will prove more than a match for pressure, extortion, and blackmail.

Paper Terms Armed Egyptian Opposition New Phenomenon

JN1904105293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH describes the armed Egyptian opposition, which rejects the political, economic, and social situation, as a new phenomenon in Egypt's modern history.

In an article entitled "Egypt Is for Its People, Not for Others," the newspaper, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that relations between the opposition and the successive Egyptian regimes have never reached this point, even during al-Sadat's era.

The newspaper adds: True, al-Sadat was killed by the opposition bullets, but these bullets were directed at the

person of al-Sadat as a treasonous and corrupt ruler, whereas now the opposition bullets are fired at the regime as a whole.

The paper says that the use of gunfire and gallows by the Egyptian regime will not kill the Egyptian people, but will destroy the image of this regime—an image drawn by the West. Thus, the lie about democracy, pluralism, and liberties allowed in Egypt falls apart.

The paper says Egypt's present image as drawn up and wanted by the colonialist West is that of a country that has lost its consciousness, nation, and role. It is a country that is satisfied to be seen as a tourist resort and a photograph of pyramids taken by an American, rather than the Egypt with an effective presence as Muhammad 'Ali [an early 19th century Egyptian ruler] and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir wanted it to be.

Concluding its article, the paper says the Egyptian regime's bullets and gallows are the instruments as well as the war Washington and Tel Aviv are waging against the Egyptian people. They are also the enemy's bloody attempt to prevent Egypt's return to itself, its nation, its role, and its consciousness. The opposition bullets and struggle represent Egypt's defense of itself.

Cuba's Castro Congratulates Saddam on National Day

JN1707063093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received Professor Rodrigo Cambras Alvarez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association.

The Cuban guest relayed a verbal message from Cuban President Fidel Castro to the leader president. In the message, President Castro congratulated the leader president on Iraq's national day and reiterated his friendship with Iraq, as well as his solidarity with it under all circumstances. The Cuban president wished leader President Saddam Husayn continued good health and long life so he may continue the struggle to realize the aspirations of the great Iraqi people and those of our glorious Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, adviser at the Presidential Office.

Savir Explains Peres' Remarks on Confederation

TA2007114793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Ori Nir and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, asserted yesterday that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks about a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians did not mean skipping over the interim arrangement en route to the implementation of the permanent arrangement.

Savir met yesterday with the ambassadors of the 12 EC countries. Replying to a question, he said that the notion of a confederation was not new and had been raised in the past in various versions. "The foreign minister's position on the issue is known, and what he meant was that accepting such an approach about the permanent arrangement would make the implementation of the interim arrangement easier," Savir noted.

He added: "We are encouraged by the very arrival of Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the region, and believe that his visit will be a source of inspiration. The visit cannot replace the direct talks between the sides, not to mention the fact that all the sides agree about the immediate need to attain a joint declaration of principles.

"The Palestinians must make up their mind about their future and start implementing the elements of self-government in the field soon. It is not good to postpone implementation by arguing about words and terms or building expectations about the permanent arrangement," Savir stated.

Referring to Israel-Europe relations, Savir said: "We are encouraged that negotiations of a new Israeli-EC agreement have been brought forward, and we expect to formulate it by the second half of 1994." He added that "this agreement will facilitate Israeli exports, cultural and scientific exchanges, and the political dialogue between Israel and Europe."

Savir praised Europe's role in the multilateral negotiations, and noted that Israel aspires to expand cooperation with the EC to include the economic development of the territories. In this context, the Foreign Ministry's director general presented the ambassadors with a document listing the confidence-building measures Israel has adopted in the territories, particularly in the economic sphere. Nevertheless, Savir emphasized, "the time has come to shift from such measures to a root treatment in order to consolidate Israeli-Palestinian coexistence amid mutual respect and security."

Rabin: Mediator Shuttling Between Jerusalem, PLO

TA2007083593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Jul 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin disclosed yesterday that a mediator has been operating between Israel and the PLO's leadership in Tunis.

The mediator has been trying to settle the disagreements between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks. So far, he has been shuttling between Jerusalem and Tunis in a bid to bring about the signing of a joint declaration of principles as soon as possible.

Details about the mediator's identity and contacts remain secret. The prime minister shared them only with a handful of cabinet ministers, such as Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Interior Minister Arye Der'i.

Meanwhile, the Americans informed Rabin's bureau yesterday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher may arrive in Israel earlier than planned, on the evening of 31 July instead of 1 August. It is unclear whether Christopher's earlier arrival is connected with the mediator's activities.

HADASHOT has learned that Rabin authorized the mediator to persuade the PLO in Tunis to strike a debate about the status of Jerusalem from the agenda of this stage of the talks.

Israel also asked the mediator to obtain the PLO's agreement to the notion of the Israeli Government retaining overall responsibility for security in the territories.

In exchange, Israel would be ready to begin pulling out of the Gaza Strip and allow the establishment of a Palestinian self-government in the Gaza Strip before the debate on its establishment in the West Bank are completed.

A senior Likud source stated yesterday that in his opinion the current argument over the status of Jerusalem is not for real, and that if offered proper compensation the Palestinians may withdraw their demands concerning Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Knesset Rejects Two No-Confidence Motions

TA1907174693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Knesset rejected two no-confidence motions in the government presented by the Likud and Moledet. The Likud motion, which dealt mainly with the civil service strike, was rejected by 56 to 43, with two abstentions. The Moledet motion, on the reported secret talks between the government and the PLO, was rejected by 58 to 43, with two abstentions.

On the issue of the PLO, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Hizballah terrorist organizations were greater threats to Israel. Earlier, reporters received a statement calling for negotiations with the PLO that was sent by a facsimile machine belonging to the Foreign Ministry. David Ze'ev reports:

The fax received by reporters was sent from the Foreign Ministry in Tel Aviv. The words Foreign Affairs appear at the top as part of the fax code, and Deputy Minister Yosi Beilin's office confirmed that the fax number, also printed at the top, belongs to the Foreign Ministry. Below are three points referred to as the positions of the Mashov group in the Labor Party. The signatories are Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and Labor Knesset Members Ya'el Dayan and Avraham Burg. The first of the three positions is that Israel must talk to its enemies who are ready for a dialogue, including the PLO. The views of Beilin, Burg, and Dayan presented in the notice are not new, but this time Foreign Ministry facilities have been used to promote those views to the public. Point number two calls for an end to Israeli control over the Palestinians in the territories, and a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, along with a determined stand to assuring security arrangements for Israel. Point number three, that Jerusalem remains Israel's united capital under Israeli sovereignty with access for all religions to the holy places.

In the Knesset no-confidence debate, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres again refused to deny outright that there have been secret government contacts with the PLO. He said the Hamas and Hizballah organizations pose the central threat, receiving money, training, and support primarily from one country, Iran. If not for Iran, said Peres, the Middle East would be a lot quieter in Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel. Foreign Minister Peres called for a political, economic front against Iran and not to deal with the past.

UK's Hogg Arrives From Jordan, Travels to Gaza

TA2007102793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Israel from Jordan this morning. He drove to Gaza, where he is scheduled to meet Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, and tour a refugee camp later.

The British minister will meet Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres tomorrow.

Defense Sources Recommend Military Export Efforts to Taiwan

TA1807164693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jul 93 pp A1, 8

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Senior sources in the defense industries say that the Taiwan market contains enormous export potential and is worth investment despite difficulties and the disappointment felt last year over Taiwan's decision not to buy Kfir fighters and other military technology from Israel.

An international electronic warfare exhibition was held in Taiwan this year. Leading firms exhibited electronic systems to protect vessels and aircraft. Taiwan is interested in improving its navy.

Next month, an arms exhibition will be held in Taiwan in which Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] will participate in order to highlight its marketing goals in Taiwan. IAI will present night-vision capability, drones, electronic warfare, electronic intelligence, defensive missiles for Baraq vessels, and Gabriel sea-to-sea missiles. It will also present a model of the 'Amos communications satellite. [passage omitted]

A sharp dispute has cropped up in Israel over the Kfir deal with Taiwan for fear that the deal might damage relations with its rival China and thereby weaken efforts to convince China not to sell missiles to Iran and Syria. The Beijing government protested to Israel over the sale of fighter aircraft to Taipei and the Foreign Ministry tried to override the defense establishment's efforts to conclude the deal.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, supported the Defense Ministry's senior echelon view that contacts to sell arms to Taiwan should continue while trying to reach an understanding with China.

Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri recommended that Rabin refrain from favoring either state until it becomes clear whether Taiwan seriously intends to procure the Kfirs. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Optimistic of Peace Talks Breakthrough

JN1904165193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-WASAT, Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali said that a Palestinian confederation with Jordan would not take place until the Palestinian people regain their right to self-determination. Then, the prime minister added, Jordan will decide if unity will be through confederation, federation, or another form. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said that he is optimistic that this year will witness a breakthrough in the peace talks. He said Jordan is still negotiating with Israel over a working agenda, adding that there are two linguistic points in need of amendment or correction. The prime minister went on to say that there will be no progress on the Jordanian track without a similar one on the Palestinian track, which forms the core of the Middle East problem.

On occupied Jordanian territories, he said Israel recognized the role of the British mandate and that this made things clearer.

Speaking on Jordan's relations with Iraq, the prime minister said Jordan fully supports the Iraqi people. He added that Jordan believes in the right of the Iraqi people to freedom and democracy.

King Husayn: Peace Process 'Last Chance' for Region

JN1707154193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the peace process is the last chance to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region acceptable to future generations.

In a speech at the United Services Institute for Defense Studies in London, his majesty expressed hope that Jerusalem will be a symbol of peace, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among religions.

His majesty added that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the reason behind the instability in the region. Peace will not be achieved unless it addresses the Palestinian dimension through the Palestinians themselves and unless the Palestinian people regain their legitimate rights on their national soil, he added.

His majesty commended the courage of the Palestinian negotiating delegation participating in the peace process. He said that Islam has been much distorted in the world, and urged confrontation of those who are working to harm Islam. His majesty added that he will do his best to explain the true image of Islam.

Legality of Political Protocols With Iraq Questioned

JN2007065993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Several political party officials played down the importance of a cooperation protocol between their parties and Iraq's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Monday [19 July] after a government official was quoted questioning the legality of cooperation agreements between Jordanian political parties and external groups, particularly ruling parties.

At least five of Jordan's 20 licensed political parties are said to have signed a two year eight-point protocol with the Ba'th Party in Iraq. Most of the protocols were signed in June, and many of the parties distributed statements to the press about their signing of the protocols.

"We signed the protocol with the Iraqi Ba'th Party on June 30 and distributed a press release soon afterwards," Taysir al-Zibri, secretary-general of the Jordan's People's Democratic Party (JPDP), told the Jordan Times Monday. "I saw some press releases on the same issue from some other parties here in Jordan," Mr. al-Zibri added.

While members of six parties contacted by the Jordan Times said that their parties were signatories to similar protocols, not all would go on record after hearing that the government may take legal action against them.

Singling out the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'thist Party (JASBP) as the "violating party," an unnamed government official was quoted by Reuters on Monday as questioning the legality of such a protocol.

"We are studying the legal aspects and the extent of the violation that has been committed by the Jordanian Arab Socialist Party regarding 'programme of action' pact with Iraq's Socialist Ba'th Party," the government official told Reuters.

"We are and were within our legal rights to conclude a protocol with a party of another Arab country, the political parties law gives us the right to do so," JASBP Secretary-General Ahmad al- Najdawi told the Jordan Times.

The government official argued that the Ba'th Party in Iraq is a "ruling party" and that the rule about inter-Arab party contact is thus not applicable in this case.

"They (the JASBP) are saying the agreement is between a party and another party, but in fact it is between them and a state because the Iraqi party is the ruling party... and this is a violation of the law," the government official told Reuters.

According to Taysir al-Himsi, one of the spokesmen for the JASBP, at least five other political parties in Jordan have already signed a similar protocol with the Iraqi Ba'th Party.

"The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan, the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the United Arab Democratic Party have all signed the pact," he said.

Mr. al-Himsi also said that the al-Mustaqbal [Future] Party, headed by former Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, is preparing itself to sign a similar protocol with the Iraqi party.

But only Mr. al-Zibri would confirm that his party had signed a protocol with the Iraqi party.

"As far as the JPDP is concerned we are within the limits of the law in signing this protocol unless we are told otherwise," Mr. al- Zibri said.

The agreement covers issues as diverse as union activities, conferences, Arab unity, university scholarships as well as exchanges of visit and information for party newspapers.

Political observers close to the government Monday questioned point 6 and 7 of the protocol as questionable however.

Point 6 states that the two parties would cooperate to "bolster the conference [as published] of the Arab masses and promote its activities and execute its decision as being the best means for the achievement of a pan-Arab coalition of the masses."

Point 7 of the protocol states that the two parties would "escalate efforts at a popular level in both countries and in all Arab countries to break the siege on Iraq."

Media React to Iraqi President's 17 July Speech

[Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] The following is a roundup of Jordanian reaction to the speech delivered by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the 17-30 July revolution anniversary on 17 July.

Amman radio, which reported on Rolf Ekeus' mission in Baghdad in every newscast, completely ignored Saddam Husayn's speech. Meanwhile, Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 17 July reported only briefly on the event as follows: "While the sensitive talks were being closely watched by international quarters, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn violently criticized the continued U.S. Administration's declaration of war on Iraq."

Amman Jordan Television Network in English at 1900 GMT on 17 July carried the following 35-second report and comment on the speech: "Iraqi President Saddam Husayn urged Europe, Japan, and China to distance themselves from what he described as the political insanity and racial fanaticism practiced by the U.S. Administration. In a televised address, the Iraqi president said that racial blindness was behind U.S. hostility toward Iraq. The speech was one of Baghdad's sharpest attacks against the United States since President Clinton took office in January. President Husayn made no direct mention of the latest Iraqi standoff with the United Nations over long-term monitoring of its weapons program, or to talks with a top UN arms envoy trying to defuse the situation."

Jordanian dailes carried news agency reports on Saddam's speech. Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 18 July carried a 400-word combined news agencies report on the speech under the following headlines on page 1 and 5: "Saddam Hits U.S., Urges its Allies To Distance Themselves."

Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic on pages 1 and 17 on 18 July carried a 150-word report on the speech under headlines: "Saddam Calls on Arabs and Muslims To Agree on the Minimum," "Saddam: America on the Level of Decisionmakers Is Plagued With A Disease Called Arrogance and Singlemindedness," and "The Massacre of the Embargo Will Not End by Begging to the Centers of Disgrace or Losing One's Honor."

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic on 18 July carried on pages 1 and 24 a 600-word report on the speech under the headlines: "Saddam: We Will Not Beg To Lift the Embargo," and "America Suffers from Racial Madness."

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic on pages 1 and 24 on 18 July carried a 400-word report on Saddam Husayn's speech as part of a news agencies report on Rolf Ekeus' mission under the headline: "Saddam Does Not See Any Quick End to the Sanctions" and "Ekeus Pursues Talks in Baghdad."

The only comment on Saddam Husayn's speech by the papers on 18 and 19 July came in the following two items. In his "I Say a Word" column on page 22 of AL-RA'Y on 18 July, columnist 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar says under the headline "Well-Placed Criticism": "In the speech he delivered on the 25th anniversary of the 17 July Revolution, President Saddam Husayn criticized the United States for the continuing war against Iraq. Of course, no one expects the United States to adopt a neutral stand on any country which is at war with Israel and tries to possess a military force that is equal to the one the United States has supplied Israel with."

After stating that as the world's major power, the United States should adopt a fair and unbiased stand, the columnist concludes by saying: "While Iraq today faces the siege with its renowned heroism and celebrates its national day shackled by the chains of the siege, we raise our voice in solidarity with the Arab brothers against

those who conspire against them and against their territorial integrity, hoping the occasion will be celebrated next year with the clouds dissipated and Iraq having regained its vitality."

In an article on page 18 of the 18 July issue of SAWT AL-SHA'B, Ahmad al-Dabbas congratulates the Iraqi people on the 17-30 July Revolution anniversary, adding: "In spite of our tribulation and the harm that is done to us by those near and the far, we support Iraq and the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the nation's enemies." After stressing that Iraq has helped the Arab countries, including Jordan in the past, the writer says: "We in Jordan will continue to support Iraq and its people, because we want to perform our duty, and repay our debt."

No editorials were observed to comment on the Iraqi president's speech.

Syrian Embassy Denies Barring Palestinian Visitors

JN2007104893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jul 93 pp 1, 24

[By Hamdan al-Haj]

[Text] An authorized source at the Syrian Embassy in Amman has denied any knowledge of Palestinians holding Jordanian passports valid for two years being prevented from entering Syria. The source said that he is not aware of any intention to prevent holders of such passports from entering Syria. The source said that according to information available to the embassy in Amman, there is nothing new in the procedures affecting any Arab visitor.

The same source told AL-DUSTUR that the embassy had not received anything in this connection from the Syrian Foreign Ministry. He explained that no Palestinian visitors had been detained unless they were wanted by the competent authorities. He explained that anyone wanted by the authorities would not have been detained, but would have been asked not to enter Syrian territory. He said such procedures are taken at border posts anywhere in the world.

The source added that the Syrian Embassy in Amman had asked for clarifications from the Syrian Foreign Ministry and competent authorities about this matter since many of those who were sent back reported to the embassy last week. However, the embassy has not yet received a response.

Further Details on Visit by UK Minister of State

Crown Prince Receives Hogg

JN1904182993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning.

During the meeting, his highness emphasized Jordan's constant stands on the course of peace and its commitment to this course. He also reaffirmed Europe's role in the multilateral talks. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan explained to the guest the democratic march that has become an irrevocable Jordanian choice.

The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and the means to develop these relations in all fields.

Hogg on Talks With Officials

JN1907200193 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Mr. Douglas Hogg told the "News at Ten" that he discussed with Jordanian officials a wide variety of subjects, at the forefront of which was the peace process and the shape of the region if the peace process succeeded.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Did you present today new ideas to the Jordanian officials?

[Hogg] No, no. I was here basically to listen. I hope when I talk with the Palestinians that I might have the opportunity of making suggestions if there are areas where they think we may be able to help. But, broadly, what we are here to do is to listen, to learn from what other people have been saying to us, and to encourage the process because we think it is historically important.

[Reporter] In what way can you help the Palestinians to reach a happy medium with the American draft proposal?

[Hogg] Well, I think there are perhaps two ways we can perhaps help. The first is to encourage the Israelis to act in a way which shows a real desire to make peace. Therefore, to our Israeli friends we have a variety of suggestions, for example, on the settlements, how important it is to recognize that the settlements are an obstacle to peace. We can say that to the Israelis. And there are other things we can say as well. And to the Palestinians maybe there are drafting suggestions that we can make, which can overcome some of the obstacles that they see within the existing text. But it'll always be within the framework of the existing talks. [end recording]

Peace Process Needs 'Substantial Movement'

JN2007074393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpts] Amman—A senior British official Monday [19 July] warned that the Arab-Israeli peace process would fail if "substantial movement" was not achieved in the next few months but said Britain had no specific proposals on how to advance the stalemated negotiations.

"If substantial movement in (the peace talks is not made) in a matter of few months, it will be hard to sustain

support for" the 21-month-old negotiations, British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hogg said.

But he said Britain does not have its own agenda for setting the peace process back on track and does not want "to cut across what the United States is doing," in the negotiations, launched in Madrid two years ago under the co-sponsorship of the United States and the former Soviet Union.

"I am not here to bring new proposals," Mr. Hogg told a news conference after holding talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan on the peace process and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hogg urged all parties to the peace talks to take steps that would move the peace process forward. He said Israel could make its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza "less oppressive" and the Arabs could relax their economic boycott of Israel.

Mr. Hogg, who will meet with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank Tuesday, also suggested that Palestinians stop all acts of "violence" to encourage the Israelis.

Asked whether he believed the intifada should stop, Mr. Hogg said: "I mean all acts of violence."

Mr. Hogg, who arrived in Amman Sunday, said progress was achieved in the peace negotiations but said they were going through a critical stage. And "I know that Israel hasn't done everything the Palestinians could wish for," but it is engaged in the talks on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Hogg said "Britain may have a role to play" in the peace process through its good relations with all parties to the conflict. But he said any such role would be confined to supporting the ongoing negotiations and the framework within which they are currently taking place.

The British minister rejected arguments that Europe was not doing enough to stop the war in the former Yugoslavia and argued against lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. If the embargo on the Bosnians is lifted, it will have to be lifted from the Serbs and Croats, he said.

He said Britain would support the deployment of "some" Muslim forces among U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia but added it is up to the U.N. secretary-general to take such a decision, taking into account that these troops should be seen as impartial forces by all the conflicting parties.

Mr. Hogg also rejected accusations that the West was applying double standards in its policies towards Iraq and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

With Iraq, he said, it was a case of clear aggression, but in Bosnia it is a civil war.

Hogg, Delegation Depart Amman

JN2007082993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, and his accompanying delegation left Amman via the King Husayn Bridge today after a visit of several days during which he met with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. He also held talks with a number of senior officials on the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, and friendly bilateral relations.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Eritrea

JN1507192993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving a cabinet decision that includes the Jordanian Government's official recognition of Eritrea's independence and the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.

The following joint statement was issued in Amman and Asmara this evening:

Proceeding from the historical relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples, and from their desire to develop and reinforce bilateral brotherly relations and cooperation in all fields, the Governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Eritrea have decided to establish bilateral diplomatic Relations at the ambassadorial level as of 15 July 1993.

The two sides are confident that establishing diplomatic relations and exchanging ambassadors will contribute to the development of bilateral relations and the reinforcement of cooperation and international peace and security on the basis of the principles and objectives of the UN Charter.

Egypt's Musa To He'p Resolve Conflicts With U.S.

NC2007111793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Beirut, 20 Jul (MENA)—Informed Lebanese sources disclosed today that during his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri yesterday Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conveyed to al-Hariri Egypt's readiness to hold contacts with the U.S. Administration to resolve some outstanding issues between Lebanon and the United States.

The sources noted that most prominent of these issues is the ban on Lebanese Middle East Airlines company bookings, the U.S. Senate resolution, and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross' failure to visit Lebanon on his recent tour of the region.

The sources said that Musa affirmed to al-Hariri that Egypt will do all it can to hold contacts with the U.S. Administration on these issues. Musa noted that Egypt does not see negative signs in these U.S. measures and suggests that negotiations continue because there are many positive signals that the talks will succeed.

The sources reported that the Lebanese Prime Minister told Musa that Lebanon wants to achieve peace and supports continuing the negotiations but it cannot bear these kind of relations with the United States, particularly on the Lebanese airline company, the Senate resolution, and the U.S. envoy ignoring a visit to Lebanon. The sources said al-Hariri told Musa that if things continue this way we will be forced to examine the feasibility of continuing our participation in the peace talks.

Musa ended a three-day visit to Beirut yesterday during which he met with senior Lebanese officials and held important talks with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. He also conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, who sent a written reply to Mubarak.

Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

NC1807122193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] A Bulgarian delegation led by Valentin Gatsinski, Bulgarian first deputy minister for foreign affairs, arrived in Beirut this morning for a three-day visit. The delegation will meet with a number of Lebanese officials to discuss political, economic, and trade cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation was received at the airport by the Bulgarian ambassador in Lebanon and Foreign Ministry representatives. It headed for the Bulgarian Embassy and is scheduled tomorrow to meet Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry.

Hold Political, Economic Talks

NC1907204593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Official Lebanese-Bulgarian talks on the Middle East peace process and the question of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been held at the Foreign Ministry. Economic issues, such as modernizing the agreements between the two countries and redressing the disturbance in the trade balance—$74 million in favor of Bulgaria—have also been discussed.

The first round of talks began today. Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan announced that the two sides agreed to modernize the trade, air transport, and tourism agreements between the two countries so that they are appropriate to the requirements and developments in Bulgaria and Lebanon.

Hizballah Statement Urges UN To Condemn U.S. Actions

NC1607150493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the aggression carried out by U.S. helicopters in Somalia that left approximately 100 innocent and defenseless Somalis dead. The statement said: As we rightly warned in the past, the U.S. intervention in Somalia, under a UN cover, is nothing but an act of aggression to impose hegemony on the Somali people. It is not, as the campaign's name of Operation Restore Hope suggested, designed to end the conflict among the parties and achieve political accord in Somalia.

The statement pointed out that the repeated U.S. practices and aggression in the form of individualistic and uncoordinated measures validate our warnings and reveal the hostile nature of the flagrant and unjustified U.S. intervention. The statement noted that the Muslim Somali people, who are suffering the wounds inflicted upon them, have every right to defend themselves in the face of this aggression, even if the aggression uses the United Nations as a cover. The United Nations must condemn and deplore the U.S. practices and warn that they must not be repeated; otherwise, the silence of the international organization will be self-incriminating. It will also prove something that is becoming clear, namely, that the United Nations and the Security Council have become a tool to serve U.S. aggressive purposes.

The statement called on all free people, particularly the Arab and Islamic people, to stand firmly against this conspiracy. It added: Let Washington know that the famine afflicting Somalia will not stop it from becoming a quagmire into which Washington will sink along with its arrogance, policies, troops, and all its allies.

Chief Negotiator Interviewed on Peace Process

PM1607124793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 93 p 6

[Interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace negotiations, by Hanan al-Badri in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral peace negotiations, stresses that Damascus is willing to accept any security guarantees or arrangements with Israel, provided that these arrangements and guarantees are distributed equally on both sides of the border. In an interview conducted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-'Allaf says that Syria accepts U.S. guarantees. He demands that Israel implement the complete withdrawal so that the Arab states can accept it as a normal state in the region. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf said that Yitzhaq Rabin's present tone to the effect that he has all the time in the world for negotiation is the same tone he had heard from former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, whom he said wanted the negotiations to continue for 10 years. Al-'Allaf stressed that, although there is no evidence so far of Israeli's seriousness in the negotiations, the Arab parties will not cease to demand that the peace process achieve its aims. He said that it is not in the Arab parties' interests to waste time, and the U.S. sponsor must realize this and put pressure on Israel. Asked whether the Arabs will decide to suspend the negotiations as a result of Israeli trickery, al-'Allaf said that he does not want to admit the failure of the peace process now, because this would arouse concern over the future of the region and its security.

At the beginning of the interview al-'Allaf explained the truth about the Israel position compared with the Arab positions. He said: There is a difference between the Israeli position and the Arab positions on all tracks. It is a radical difference which exposes Israel's misunderstanding of the reasons which prompted the Arabs to join the peace process. Israel tried to exploit Arab fragmentation, thinking that by doing so it will be able to impose its own terms. This is why we see, for example, that on the Syrian track Israel is now confronted with the desire for peace after it has exhausted all its tricks. Israel does not want to implement the foundations of the peace process in the manner imposed on it by international legitimacy.

[Al-Badri] Israel announces through the head of its delegation to the talks that, if Syria submits a clear explanation of the comprehensive peace, Israel would be willing to withdraw completely.

[Al-'Allaf] That is what I tried to refer to. Since the Madrid conference Syria has submitted a complete and clear explanation of the meaning of peace. There have been evasions since the new Israeli Government took office. The former government resorted to evasion in an exposed manner. After two rounds of negotiations we found that the two governments (the Shamir and Rabin governments) are the two sides of one coin. Changing the method has not led to a fundamental change in the Israeli position. After 10 rounds of negotiations we find ourselves today still in square one on all tracks.

[Al-Badri] Israel says that in order to achieve progress a political decision should be issued from Damascus. What is your opinion?

[Al-'Allaf] We believe that this decision should be issued by the Israelis. When Israel says that it will not discuss withdrawal until Syria explains the meaning of peace, it is imposing prior conditions not stipulated in Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria met all the requirements of these two resolutions when it submitted in the sixth round a complete document which was considered even by the conference's sponsor to be a historic document. It was also welcomed by the U.S. assistant secretary of state. It is a document concerning a draft joint declaration of principles and commitments. When we say joint, we mean taking account of the two sides' legitimate demands, because we are not at all prepared to accept an illegitimate demand. The Syrian document includes all the requirements for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace. And it talks about the complete withdrawal, without which no peace can be established. It also talks about acceptable security arrangements, provided these arrangements are equal on both sides. This is in addition to the formation of working committees to discuss the details. Only then will Syria be willing to sign a peace treaty.

[Al-Badri] Some Israelis say that Israel is not willing to pay the same price it paid to Egypt at Camp David.

[Al-'Allaf] That means that Israel is not ready for peace. Israel will not be paying any price by pulling out of the territories it is required to return to the Arabs, since these are Arab territories. By withdrawing from them, it would be reversing its aggression. Anyone who backtracks on an aggression is not paying a price. What is required is to eliminate all the causes of the state of war. And the Arab parties have adhered to all that is necessary for the establishment of this peace.

[Al-Badri] The ninth and 10th rounds of negotiations were held under a new U.S. Administration. Do you believe the Clinton administration played its role as a full partner, as it had announced?

[Al-'Allaf] Ostensibly, the new administration indeed played an active role in these two rounds. It appointed an officer to liaise with every party daily. We (all the parties) met with Warren Christopher at one meeting, contrary to what happened with James Baker, who used to meet with us individually. We considered this a new formula. There should have been a change after these contacts, especially in the attitude of the party resorting to maneuvers. But regretably, and despite the ostensibly active U.S. role, we sens[illegible] change. On the contrary, the ninth did not produce [illegible]tisfactory results. And in the

10th round we noted further backtracking and escalation, not only in the negotiations, but in Rabin's and Peres' statements. We have started to discover some kind of arrogance and escalation in imposing conditions, and, of course, the Arab parties cannot accept such a situation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Badri] There is a negotiation rule which says that one party's gain in this process means another's loss. Does this rule apply to the negotiation process with Israel?

[Al-'Allaf] It does not apply to these negotiations, for a simple reason: The only possible condition for establishing peace is not for one party to win and the other to lose. The condition is to return the land and rectify the state of imbalance and the existing Israeli aggressive situation. We are talking about the acceptable minimum to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination. So the matter is bigger than one party's loss or another party's gain. If Israel wants to be accepted in this region—and it seems that it wants that; proof of this is its endeavors to establish relations with the Arabs and its insistence on the multilateral negotiations, which talk about regional cooperation—and if Israel wants to be one of the region's states in a normal way, it cannot be accepted if it continues its aggression on the Arab territories. Nor can it be accepted as a hegemonic and dominating power in the region. It must be a normal state in the region.

[Al-Badri] Did you reject the U.S. compromise proposal at the 10th round?

[Al-'Allaf] There is a draft declaration of principles. It contains the fundamental issues. We do not need a paper guaranteeing new proposals. All we need is the implementation of the principles on which the peace process is based. The resolution demands Israel to withdraw. True, the UN resolutions were adopted as a result of the atmosphere which prevailed after the 1967 aggression and under pressure from Israel and its allies, and one of these resolutions contains some deliberate ambiguity, but despite this ambiguity, the resolution contains a principle sufficient for the withdrawal.

[Al-Badri] Let us go back to the security arrangements issue. Have you actually begun to draw up a security arrangements plan with Israel?

[Al-'Allaf] It is not security arrangements which secure the withdrawal, but they guarantee a lasting peace. We cannot achieve an unjust or incomplete peace. In the context of security arrangements we expressed our readiness for any security guarantees or measures after Israel pledges to withdraw completely, provided that these arrangements are implemented on both sides, and the security of one side cannot be guaranteed at the expense of the other side.

[Al-Badri] Do you believe that this pledge is a sufficient guarantee?

[Al-'Allaf] If Israel is sincere in its claim that it retained the Golan for security reasons, it must accept U.S. guarantees, which contain elements sufficient to persuade Israel to refrain from using security pretexts. However, we have not discussed the details, but the United States offered in principle to guarantee any agreement the two sides reach. [passage omitted]

Economic Cooperation Talks With Lebanon Open

JN1904185793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] An official round of talks was held at 1200 today between a Syrian delegation led by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and a Lebanese delegation, headed by Asa'd Rizq, minister of industry and oil. The round of talks was attended for Syria by the ministers of economy and foreign trade, health, finance, industry, transportation, and oil and mineral resources, as well as the minister of state for planning affairs. For Lebanon, the talks were attended by the ministers of health, transportation, economy and trade, and finance.

The delegations discussed ties between the two fraternal countries in the economic and social fields, and discussed means to bolster and diversify them, especially in the fields of economic cooperation, trade, transportation, health, and tourism. They also discussed a number of programs that will be put on the agenda of the meetings of the coordination and consultation committee, which will convene in Lebanon in the near future.

Afghanistan

'CIS Forces' Continue Cross-Border Attacks

LD1907185193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1539 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] As many as eight persons have been martyred and 17 others injured as the result of attacks by CIS forces on the Tajik border on the Chahab, Dashte Qala, Yangi Qala, and Darqad areas since yesterday. Five hundred families of our compatriots were forced to leave their homes and a large area of crops was set alight. The fires are still burning.

Attacks Seen as 'Revenge'

LD1907192193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Commentary by a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY political observer]

[Text] Following the recent bombardment by CIS forces against our border regions, that left 80 people killed and wounded, yesterday further reports of the deaths of 300 of our compatriots as a result of the heavy artillery bombardment by aggressive forces reached us. A political observer of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY writes:

Following their reinstatement in political power in the Republic of Tajikistan, accomplished with Russian military assistance, the ex-communists made every effort to bring situation inside the country under control and consolidate their influence. However, the resistance of the Muslim forces in that country, which enjoy wide support among the people of Tajikistan, weakened the position of this state day by day. As a result of intimidation and savagery, which was mainly imposed by Russian forces on the people of that country, about 100,000 Tajik people had to flee to Afghanistan as refugees.

The state of Tajikistan is now not only surviving under the shadow of support of tanks and soldiers of the CIS, but has recently asked for a link to the Russian Federation, thus abandoning its existence as an independent country. In this way the incidents of 1979, which led to the invasion of the occupying Russian forces, are being repeated in different form. At this moment, when the existence of the Republic of Tajikistan as an independent country is called into question, the existence of the Russian forces and other CIS forces, in particular along this country's borders with Afghanistan, has made the situation more tense, both on the borders of the two countries and in relations between them.

At a time when our country is faced with internal problems, attacks by the Russian forces on Afghan territory are nothing but revenge for the defeat [words indistinct] of leaders in the war of the past decade with Afghanistan.

The present state of Afghanistan is in no way interested in interfering in the internal affairs of Tajikistan, but it has the right to defend itself against foreign aggression on its territory. During its 14-year jihad, the Afghans brought to its knees the Soviet empire which had been feared by the region and the world. Now too it has the ability to defend its independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty against any sort of aggression. It is necessary that the Russians should not repeat their past experience and not allow themselves to be caught in the Afghan trap. What the state of Afghanistan has repeatedly emphasized is that the authorities of both sides should urgently solve the existing problems through negotiations, as any sort of tension in relations between the independent countries of the CIS and Afghanistan is not in the interest of any side or of peace and stability in the region.

Rabbani Discusses Security With Group Leaders

LD2007091393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this morning with esteemed 'Abdorrab al-Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], and esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leader of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement], in the Presidency's Golkhana Palace. According to a report by a the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent, during the meeting, which was also attended by Engineer Mohammad Ayub, minister of water and electricity, and esteemed Sayyid Omar Monib, minister of higher and vocational education, talks were conducted on the current situation in the country and on the ensuring of all-out peace and security and on Afghanistan's efforts to stop fighting and bloodshed. They urged chiefs of the organizations to apply all their power to secure the tranquillity of the people.

Finance Commission's Internal Regulation Approved

LD2007090193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, met today with esteemed 'Abdol Hoseyn Maqsudi and esteemed Engineer Ahmad Khan in Chaharasiab. During the meeting the decision of the Finance and Banking Commission and this commission's internal regulation were discussed. The regulation was approved by the esteemed prime minister after a number of amendments.

India

External Afairs Minister Meets Afghan Counterpart

LD1907183093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Arsala, foreign affairs minister of Afghanistan, who paid a visit to some countries after

the end of the Economic Cooperation Organization's conference and is now staying in Delhi, met this afternoon with Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh. The meeting was attended by Engineer Eshan Jan [name indistinct], charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and a conversation was held on issues of interest to the two sides in an atmosphere of friendship.

Embassy in Kabul To Reopen 'Shortly'

BK1907161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] India will reopen its embassy in Kabul shortly. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, during his meeting with the visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Hedayat Amin Arsala. During their talks, the two sides reviewed the prospects of bilateral cooperation within the framework of the Indo-Afghan joint commission.

President's Visit Said Forging New Links With Turkey

BK1907131093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Commentary by Sumati Vishwanathan]

[Text] Relations between India and Turkey have entered a new era of mutual respect and friendship, with Turkey announcing that the Kashmir issue will not be allowed to affect bilateral relations between the two. This move has been viewed as a major development and turning point for India. The fact that Turkey is a member of the UNO, NATO, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Islamic Conference Organization cannot be ignored.

This major breakthrough came during the official-level talks between the two countries held during the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma's three-day visit to Ankara. The Turkish foreign minister, Mr. Cetin, who took part in the talks on behalf of his country said that both India and Turkey had bilateral problems such as Turkey with Greece and India with Pakistan. These problems, he suggested, should be solved through bilateral negotiations and talks. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, who represented India in the talks mentioned the resolutions passed by the Islamic Conference Organization at its recent meeting at Karachi on Kashmir. He said such resolutions greatly inflamed public opinion in India. Mr. Bhatia said that resolutions served no purpose unless they could propose solutions.

During the talks, both the countries agreed to have consultations on terrorism and human rights for joint action in the international forums. New Delhi and Ankara will explore possibilities of joint survey of Central Asian countries for concentrated action. The Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Turkish Foreign Trade Board will expedite action on the proposal. The proposal aims at setting up of joint venture projects and extension of their (?trading) facilities in Central Asia. Both the countries verified agreement on mutual judicial assistance to solve commercial disputes and criminal problems. India submitted a draft for extradition treaty while Turkey presented a draft of an investment guarantee agreement. Both the sides agreed to more frequent exchange of visits to either country for stepping up economic ties.

Indo-Turkish ties have been affected by divergent positions on Cyprus and Kashmir. Both sides in recent years were trying to reduce the impact of these irritants in their relationship. The president's visit has pushed forward these efforts more than ever expected. What is needed now is proper and regular exchange of visits to further strengthen the tangible results of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma's visit to Turkey.

Overall relations between India and Turkey had been cordial since late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Ankara in 1988. The former Turkish prime minister, Mr. Turgut Ozal, and former president, Kenan Evren, visited India in 1986 and 1989. Economic and consular agreements were signed and the bilateral joint economic committee raised to the ministerial level during this time. India and Turkey have already signed agreements in the fields of shipping, civil aviation, science and technology, and culture. With the (?talking) of the new prime minister, Ms. Tansu Ciller, the chances of more economic cooperation between India and Turkey have brightened. Ms. Ciller, former economic minister, is known for her modern ideas and liberal views on market economy. Moreover, Turkey with its geographical position can be India's successful outlet to Europe. Ankara is emerging as strong forum in region. With its close links with the independent states, Turkey is in a position to act as a stablizing influence to prevent growth of fundamentalism. The visit of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma to Turkey has yielded some tangible results, forging new links with Ankara.

Army Seen as 'Final Arbiter' of Politics in Pakistan

BK1907053293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Commentary by Professor Kalim Bahadur]

[Text] Whether the agreement brokered by Pakistan's chief of the army staff between the feuding president, Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, will lead to a solution to the prolonged political crisis in that country is yet to be seen. Under the agreement, both the president and the prime minister resigned last night clearing the way for the elections. President Ishaq Khan has been succeeded by the Senate chairman, Wasim Sajjad, and similarly Mian Nawaz Sharif by Mr. Moin

W. Qureshi as the caretaker prime minister. The administration will generally be headed by judges and even by military officers till the election which is slated for October this year.

The dissolution of the assemblies at the center and the provinces, and call for the new elections is in a way a victory for Pakistan People's Party [PPP] leader and the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, who had been relentlessly campaigning for them during the last several months since the outbreak of the crisis.

However, the political scenario in Pakistan is such that it is doubtful that the elections will help much to clarify the situation. The political class in that country is so fragmented that it is almost certain that no party or combination of parties will be able to gain a clear majority in the National Assembly, apart from the fact that different parties may get majority in various provinces further complicating the situation.

The situation in Punjab indicates that Mian Nawaz Sharif may have an edge over the PPP-led front. Mian Nawaz Sharif has been able to win popular sympathy in Punjab, as he is seen there as a Punjabi whose is being victimized by a Pathan president. The PPP, will of course, carry Sindh with a clear majority. As per the present electoral arithmetic, no party will be able to have a clear majority in Balochistan, and the North-Western Frontier Province. All this means that no party or a combination of parties will have a clear majority after the election.

Mian Nawaz Sharif's Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, IJI, has already fallen a victim to the current crisis and has broken up. His own party, the Muslim League, is also split between his own faction and that of the late Junejo's faction. There may be strains in the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] led by Benazir Bhutto but since that front is overwhelmingly dominated by the PPP, even if some of the smaller constituents split away, it may not have much effect.

The deal pushed through by the army chief may have eased the political crisis for the present, but if it will resolve the problems that beset the Pakistani politics is a matter of doubt. The very fact that the army chief had to practically drag the politicians to the deal speaks rather poorly of the tribe. It has further strengthened the position of the Armed Forces as the final arbiter in politics in that country. The army chief has come out of the crisis with his prestige enhanced, as he has used his clout to settle the issue without actually bringing the Armed Forces out of the barracks.

Commentary Views Increased Pakistani Defense Spending

BK1607122493 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Commentary by Kuldip Singh Arora]

[Text] After a long time, Western donors have expressed concern on Pakistan's consistently disproportionate ratio of military expenditures vis-a-vis Gross National Product. Pakistan has been warned that in future aid will be linked with reduction in the defense budget. Against the global trend, Islamabad's military budget has continued to rise and was around 7 percent of GDP in 1992, which in relative terms is twice that of India's. Pakistan is already one of the world's poorest countries and opportunities to raise levels of development is further hampered by the enormity of the defense burden. It has now started greater military production of sophisticated arms through privatization of defense production. The 1993-94 budget makes a provision of 89 billion rupees for defense, which is about 8.5 percent higher than last year's allocation of 82 billion rupees. Pakistan's defense budget increased seven-fold between 1978 and 1991. The allocation of 82 billion rupees in 1992-1993 represented an 8 percent increase over the previous year. If we add debt servicing of 93 billion rupees to 82 billion rupees of defense spending, only 3.3 billion rupees remains for development. According to a JANE's report, Pak defense spending absorbs 40 percent of Islamabad's expenditure, which is over 20 times the annual spending on education and health together.

Pakistan's defense spending is not only causing a concern to India but also to principal aid donors of Pakistan, including Japan and the Paris-based Aid Pakistan Consortium, who are no thinking to link aid to reduction in the defense budget. Started with manufacturing Lee Enfield rifles at Rawalpindi in 1950, Pakistan now has its multidefense production complex at Wah, northern Pakistan ...aking small arms and ammunition, mortar, aircraft bombs, explosives, (?tungsten) carbine, et cetera with technical foreign collaboration. The tank plant of Pakistan produces a variety of multipurpose tanks, mostly through Chinese collaboration. It is now embarking upon [manufacture of] MB T-2000 tanks known as Al-Khalid—a most modern tank with Chinese collaboration.

Similarly, military aerospace production is being carried out at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex in Kamra, 100 kilometers north of Islamabad. Set up in 1972, it employs about 7,000 people.

In the naval area, Pakistan has two naval dockyards, both in Karachi, employing over 5,000 people. Since the 1965 Indo-Pak war, when U.S. imposed arms embargo, China supported Pak's defense efforts supplying around 1,500 tanks, 350 fighter aircraft, and 40 naval vessels. In a bid to involve private investors for defense production, the Nawaz Sharif government has offered 95 percent loans to entrepreneurs to set up defense factories. Pakistan is likely to spend over rupees 2.5 bilion in defense production in the next two to three years. This does not include the routine defense spending.

Despite increasing threat to India's security, New Delhi is constantly reducing its defense spending. In fact, the seventh defense plan of India 1985-90 could never see

the light of the day. On the contrary, defense budget was severely curtailed in 1988-89. In the ensuing five years, defense expenditure has not only fallen as a percentage of GDP but also of the total central government expenditure. The inflation rate in the case of defense weapons equipment and material, which is 50-70 percent higher than the national inflation rate, has further reduced India's spending on defense in real terms. Devaluation of Indian rupee by about 25 percent in 1991 and the annual rise in the defense pension bill has further reduced the defense spending on modernization. India is even thinking to reduce the present force level to meet the resource cut backs.

India's increasing security perception can be seen in the light of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism on Indian soil, increasing Pak and China expenditure on defense, and the present force level of both India, China, and Pakistan. In addition to China and Pakistan, the future military threats will also have to count Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] and the maritime forces in the Indian Ocean.

Entry Into Space Technology Market Still Open

BK2007040893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Despite Russia going back on its commitment on the cryogenic engine deal, India has the capability to enter the space technology market. PTI quotes Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] sources as saying that the U.S. pressure on Russia was driven by commercial motivation. ISRO says even without the Geostationary Launch Vehicle, India has the capability to launch a communication satellite. India can also export satellite (?subsystem) including weather and communication satellites.

Rao Moves To Resolve Water Rights Dispute in South

BK1907135093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The prime minister has initiated several urgent steps to resolve the crisis arising out of the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jaylalitha's, fast on the Cauvery waters issue. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the chairman of the Central Water Commission, Mr. M.S. Reddy, has been deputed by Mr. Narasimha Rao to Bangalore to discuss with the state chief secretary and other senior officials of Karnataka on the issue. Mr. Reddy will later visit Madras for talks with the Tamil Nadu chief secretary, Mr. T.V. Venkataraman. Mr. Rao told a delegation of AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] MP's, who met him today, that as soon as Mr. Reddy submits his report on the water level and the ground situation, further steps will be taken. Mr. Reddy's report is expected by tomorrow afternoon. The prime minister has been making inquiries about the health of the Tamil Nadu chief minister, who is on fast since yesterday demanding implementation of the interim award of the Cauvery Waters Tribunal. The cabinet secretary, Mr. S. Rajgopalan, is in touch with the state chief secretary in Madras.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jaylalitha, has said she will not give up her fast unless the center directs Karnataka to implement the interim award of the tribunal. The leader of the opposition in the Tamil Nadu assembly, Mr. S.R. Balasubramaniam, Congress-I, has urged the chief minister, Miss Jaylalitha, to call for an emergency session of the state assembly to formulate an all-party stand on the Cauvery issue instead of resorting to fast.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Maxist] and the CPI have urged the center to find an immediate solution to the long-pending issue of the Cauvery water dispute. In a joint statement in New Delhi, the leaders of the two parties have also appealed to the people and political parties of both the states to ensure that tension does not develop.

Iran

Two Indians, Iraqi Arrested for Spying in South

NC1807152893 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 18 (AFP)—Iran has arrested two Indians and an Iraqi in the southern province of Kerman on charges of espionage, KAYHAN newspaper reported Sunday.

A Kerman intelligence chief told the paper that the three foreigners were arrested in February and March. He gave no names but said they tried to infiltrate official organisations.

Two networks of the Iraq-based People's Mojahedin, Iran's main armed opposition group, have also been dismantled in the province, he said.

Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN

LD2007095093 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 20, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi has sent a letter to the U.N. Secretary General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, indicating to 16 cases of cease-fire violations by Iraqi forces at border areas from May 15 to June 9.

Construction of new positions, penetration into Iran's territory and shooting at Iranian troops stationed in the region were among other cases mentioned in the letter.

On June 9, "the anti-revolutionary elements coming from the Iraqi territory and using heavy and light armaments attacked the Cham Naft sentry post" in western Iran, the letter noted.

It added, "the elements who intended to capture the sentry post fled back to Iraq when faced the reaction of Iranian forces."

Also, the letter noted, "a number of armed Iraqi shepherds pass on a daily basis through no man's land in the Sumar area under the guise of grazing their cattle. These shepherds at times fire shots in the direction of the Iranian forces."

However, the Iraqi forces had taken no action to prevent the shepherds from entering the area and shooting at the Iranian forces, the letter read.

Nonimplementation of Resolution Viewed

LD1807202493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Today, July the 18th, coincides with the anniversary of Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. The resolution, which was issued as late as 1987, regrettably has not been enforced in full due to various reasons. Even though a major part of it has been enforced over the past five years since the establishment of cease-fire regulations in Iraq's eight-year long war against Iran, various paragraphs of the resolution are still to be enforced. Among them is the resolution's third paragraph which is related to the exchange of the prisoners of war between Iran and Iraq immediately after the termination of the hostilities. Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran recently released the last group of the Iraqi POW's unilaterally, the Iraqi Government is still keeping a number of Iranian POW's in its detention camps. Moreover Paragraph Four of the resolution, which calls for holding political talks through UN mediation in order to reach total and honorable peace between the two countries, has not attained a definite result.

Despite lapse of five years a final peace agreement has not been signed by the two counties' officials. It must be said with regret that the UN has not performed its obligations in this regard and by observing a double standard in dealing with the resolutions issued by the Security Council, the world body continues to disregard this important issue.

Truly speaking what is the reason for the UN being indifferent towards enforcement of certain resolutions including Resolution 598? Political observers believe that had the UN Security Council put on its agenda the enforcement of this resolution's various paragraphs immediately after its issuance in 1987, tragic events such as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait would not have occurred. At that time if Paragraph Six of that resolution concerning the identification of the initiator of the Iran-Iraq war had been enforced and this task had not been delayed for five years until 1992, the Iraqi regime would undoubtedly not have permitted itself to invade Kuwait. Also enforcement of Paragraphs Five and Six of the resolution, which urged all countries to refrain from taking any action that escalates tension in the region, could have contributed to the maintenance of stability and security in the Persian Gulf. However, we observe that the Western news sources, several years after the termination of the Iran-Iraq war and after been affected by the events related to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, revealed that throughout the eight-year-long war many countries especially America and the former Soviet Union, on the ploy of confronting the Iranian influence, had extended arms aid to the aggressive Iraqi army. As a result the Iraqi regime, during all these years, managed to secure weapons of mass destruction and to embark on such crimes which are unprecedented in the history of contemporary wars.

On this ground today, on the anniversary of Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, we reiterate that further delay in fully enforcing the various paragraphs of the resolution, especially Paragraphs Three, Five, Seven and Eight, will have an impact, endangering the stability and security of the strategic Persian Gulf region. Therefore it is essential that the UN secretary general pays his special attention to the tasks on full enforcement of the important paragraphs of Resolution 598 so that its positive effects prove beneficial to all countries of the region.

Nateq-Nuri Regrets Croats' 'Passive' Stand in Bosnia

LD1907141093 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Croatian ambassador in Tehran, Mr. Osman Muftic, today met with Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri. During the session the Croatian chief diplomat gave his host a message from his country's parliament head, and expressed his readiness to expand bilateral ties with Iran.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then reflected his dissatisfaction over the passive stand by Croats at the brutal massacre of Muslims by Serbs. The Iranian Majles speaker later asserted that like the Zionists, the Serbs are pursuing harsh, aggressive and expansionist policies, which if not contained will mean ever more savagery against the Bosnian people.

Butrus-Ghali Justifies U.S. 'Crimes' in Bosnia

LD2007111193 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 20, IRNA—A Persian daily Tuesday [20 July] wrote that U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali was making futile efforts to justify U.S. crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as in Somalia. "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its editorial commented on Butrus-Ghali's statements which supported U.S. massacre of the Somalian people under the pretext of establishing peace.

But, the article noted, the U.N. chief had mentioned lack of sufficient budget for carrying out military operations

in Bosnia- Herzegovina as the only reason for U.N. non-intervention in the republic to suppress the criminal Serbs.

The daily further added that the two catastrophic incidents were indicative of the U.N. deviation from its responsibility, noting that in both cases U.N. task forces had been turned into a power lever in the hands of the criminal aggressors.

Arguing why the U.N. should have become a power lever in the hands of the Serbs, it stressed that lack of budget could not justify heinous crimes that U.N. forces had committed in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Ironically, while the U.N. was able to commit crimes in Somalia, it was deprived of enough budget to intervene in Bosnia where Serbs were commissioned to prevent formation of the only Islamic government in Europe by resorting to genocide, said the article.

"The U.N. secretary general is trying in vain to deceive the world public opinion and justify crimes of the U.S. and its allies in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Somalia. Realities are so clear that nations can easily realize the truth," concluded the daily.

Commentary Views 'Misuse' of UN Peacekeeping Forces

LD1807123993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During the past three years the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces has become the most outstanding activity of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

In Somalia an operation called Restore Hope was to be carried out solely in order to ensure the security of relief convoys. Elements inside Somalia were to reach agreement on forming a government with the assistance of the United Nations. After a few months of the operation, however, the peacekeeping forces themselves have become a party involved in the Somali internal conflict. The United Nations has offered a reward for the capture of one of the leaders of the rival groups and, by attacking the venue of a gathering of the leaders of Somali internal forces, has actually violated its own impartiality.

The activities of the peacekeeping forces—the majority of which are American forces—are completely contrary to the predetermined objectives of that force.

The Italian Government, whose troops form a part of the peacekeeping force and have suffered casualties during recent clashes, has protested to the United Nations and America and has asked for an explanation of their objectives. Asking for an explanation in fact, in diplomatic terms, means that Italy is taking America and the United Nations to task.

The peacekeeping forces are in reality the representatives of the international community, and the influential members of the UN Security Council should not use them to achieve the objectives of their own foreign policy. This misuse is not only contrary to establishing international peace and security, but also discourages other states from joining the forces. This is a problem which the United Nations is already grappling with, in terms of both troops and equipment, and finance.

Embassy Sues Swedish Radio for Inciting Violence

LD1707155893 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, filed a lawsuit against a local radio in Malmo, Sweden, on Friday [16 July] for airing programmes considered to incite violence against the supporters of the Islamic Republic of Iran residing in Sweden. On the occasion of the sixth presidential election in Iran on June 11, 1993, the Malmo-based radio broadcasting in Persian called on its audience to attack the interests of the Islamic Republic. Moreover, it asked them to send the names and places of residence of the supporters of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the radio so that "necessary measures" would be taken against them.

The radio also appealed to the Iranians residing in Sweden to boycott the elections and avoid casting their votes into the ballot boxes stationed at the Iranian Embassy.

Asserting that the content of the message aired by the Malmo radio is against the Swedish law, the Iranian Embassy is pursuing its legal proceedings through Stockholm courts to gain cancellation of Malmo Radio's broadcasting permit.

Majles Official, Lebanese Envoy Discuss Mideast Talks

LD1807103493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] At a meeting between Mr. Rowhani, deputy Majles speaker and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and Lebanese Ambassador in Tehran Jowdat Nur al-Din, the Lebanese ambassador presented a report about the Mideast talks. Mr. Rowhani said in this connection: The Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the talks because it believes them to be fruitless and to the detriment of Muslims.

During the meeting, which took place this morning, Mr. Rowhani also spoke about the hostile measures taken by the U.S. Administration against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and stressed that the Muslim nation of Iran, in keeping with its ideals, is prepared to confront all problems and is proud to do so.

Commerce Minister, Cuban Envoy Discuss Trade

LD1907170193 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Iran's Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji told Cuban Ambassador to Tehran Enrique Trujillo Rapallo here Monday [19 July] that as far as relates to the Islamic Republic there are no barriers against mutual trade with Cuba.

He said the general trend in the Islamic Republic is to cut back on importations progressively, and commented that higher production of sugar in Iran this year was the sole reason why Iran bought only as little as 300,000 [metric] tons of sugar from Cuba in contrast against 600,000 tons in 1991.

The Cuban ambassador voiced the interest of his government for maintaining political and economic relations with Iran at the current level. He said in their talks with the Iranian officials earlier on Cuban envoys had reached encouraging results on purchasing oil from Iran.

Military's Possible Return to Power in Pakistan Viewed

LD1907094893 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—A Persian daily Monday [19 July] warned against the possible return of generals to power in Pakistan if civil officials failed to reach a consensus on distribution of power.

The morning daily "ABRAR" commenting on latest developments in Pakistan wrote that apparently the Army had given the officials a chance for the just distribution of power.

However, it warned, "if officials failed to reach a desireable agreement, then the generals would return and hold the power in their hands."

Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan stepped down from his post Sunday, giving chances to new forces to appear in the country's power echelon.

The daily noted that strong presence of the Army in the political scene of Pakistan was being witnessed once again in current political developments of the country.

It quoted informed sources as saying that the role played by Army Chief General Abdul Waheed in recent developments was much more than that of an observer.

It stressed that the general, by holding the pressure and power lever in his hand, prevented the country's power structure to collapse and proved his political competence.

The daily concluded by saying that with regard to certain facts as absence of a powerful government in Afghanistan, Afghan-Tajik border clashes and, the need for tranquility in the Persian Gulf, political stability should be strengthened in Pakistan.

Commentary Examines Developments

NC1907110693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Pakistani president announced his resignation at midnight, Tehran time, last night. Earlier, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif decided to resign from office. This marks the climax of four months of acute political crisis in Pakistan. The resignations follow the pair's three joint meetings with the Pakistani Chief of Staff Abdul Waheed.

Despite the danger of the country's coming under martial law, the Pakistani Armed Forces refrained from military action. Every effort was concentrated on terminating the political crisis in Pakistan by political means.

Benazir Bhutto, the leader of the People's Democratic Party coalition, called on people not to carry out the scheduled protest march and called on the president and the prime minister to end the raging political crisis by implementing some new initiatives. The three rounds of talks, from 15-17 July, among President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Nawaz Sharif, and General Abdul Waheed reached consensus on three issues: First, the president should resign and the Senate Speaker Wasim Sajjad should take over as acting president as stipulated by the Constitution. Second, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should resign and an interim government should be set up. Third, the National Assembly and provincial assemblies should be dissolved and a neutral government be established in the four provinces of Punjab, Baluchistan, Sindh, and the North West Frontier Province [NWFP].

Thus, according to political experts, the Army had staged a white coup and terminated the political impasse in Pakistan. The resignations of the president and prime minister have paved the way to dissolve the National Assembly. Naturally, early elections, which the opposition wants, will be held.

Differences between Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif surfaced last year, when Sharif intended to curtail presidential powers by introducing reforms in the Pakistani Constitution. These differences worsened such that Ghulam Ishaq Khan announced the dissolution of Nawaz Sharif's cabinet on 18 April. Sharif's government gained a positive verdict from the Supreme Court on 26 May, when the Supreme Court declared the President's action illegal, and Nawaz Sharif's cabinet was reinstated.

Barely four days after Sharif was reinstated, the Punjab Provincial Assembly was dissolved and Nawaz Sharif's supporters attributed the dissolution to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. After this, the NWFP Provincial

Assembly was also dissolved and the tension between the president and the prime minister peaked. Benazir Bhutto continued her constant attacks on Sharif's government in various ways.

Such a conflict eliminated any possibility of cooperation between the president and the prime minister and neither could tolerate the other. Although such differences are not unexpected among a country's echelons and political authorities, the mediation by the Armed Forces and the resignation of the Pakistani president and prime minister for the sake of the country's general interests and for the welfare of the people can be considered unprecedented in Pakistan's political history.

This action indicates the goodwill of the country's officials in ending the crisis that paralyzed the country politically and economically. Although developments cannot be construed as the conclusion of the crisis in the country, Pakistan is expected to regain its political stability even if for a short period. The only jarring point is that the long-standing differences between rival political factions detracts from any great optimism.

'Massive' Russian Military Presence in Tajikistan

LD1907124793 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—The daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" Monday [19 July] commented on massive presence of Russian forces in the newly-independent Tajikistan Republic and the military threats Moscow posed to Afghanistan and said nothing could justify irreparable mistakes of the Russian Army.

The editorial further added that experience of 14 years of war in Afghanistan proved that expedition to a Muslim country could bring nothing for the aggressive army but humiliation and disgrace.

The paper referred to the recent shelling of northern Afghanistan by the Russian fighter planes in which hundreds of villagers and border dwellers were killed or injured.

It noted that the bitter memory of the crimes committed by the Red Army during 14 years of its occupation of Afghanistan was being revived and the Russian Forces once again were taking tolls from among the oppressed Afghan people.

"Such an incident takes place in conditions under which the Russian Army has occupied the Islamic Tajikistan as well," the daily added.

Moscow, by threatening to bring Afghanistan under heavy attacks, was in fact treading in the same wrong path that the Red Army did and was also adding to the hatred of the Afghan nation for the Russian Army and administration.

"Had Moscow obtained anything out of the occupation of Afghanistan other than deep hatred of the Afghan people, it would also certainly benefit from occupation of Tajikistan and collaboration with the rootless communists in massacring the Muslims," said the paper sarcastically.

Once Moscow left Tajikistan alone, it noted, the Tajiks and the Afghan people, who had already become free from the yokes of Kremlin, would find a joint solution for peaceful coexistence.

"However", added the article, "Moscow is always enthusiastic to create crisis spots in the newly-independent states of former Soviet Union and exerts pressure on the republics with the aim to make them dependent on Russia."

The editorial noted that Moscow had employed a similar policy with regard to Karabakh, Georgia, Abkhazia, Ukraine and other spots. "It seems that Kremlin leaders wish to keep generals and military potential of the country busy outside the borders so as to strip the Army and generals of the opportunity to think of a coup attempt in Moscow," the daily commented.

"Whatever motive and objective Moscow is after, the present irretrievable mistake the Russian Army is making in its occupation of Tajikistan, and the military threat it poses to Afghanistan, can by no means be justified," JOMHURI concluded.

Paper Discusses Outcome of Tokyo Summit

NC1807075393 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 11 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Tokyo Summit: Success or Failure?"]

[Text] In its final communique in Tokyo, the 19th session of the heads of the world's seven industrial countries known as the G-7, while expressing concern over the Islamic Republic's stances, called on Iran to actively participate in international efforts for peace and tranquillity and to refrain from any steps contrary to these objectives.

This paragraph of the G-7 summit's communique, which is said to have been compiled through the joint efforts of the United States and Britain, has sparked off various reactions at home and abroad. Political circles state that the Tokyo summit should not have involved itself in a political game that was started by the United States. They say that Europe is burning in the desire for unity and that going along with the United States will only delay this unity.

Nevertheless, Tokyo's final communique can be assessed from two possibilities:

The first is that the United States and Britain—the main writers of the communique—fulfilled their wishes and gained the signatures of the remaining members of the G-7 without any haggling.

The second is that the United States and Britain tried to inflict more pressures on Iran but that the rest of the G-7 members opposed this demand and that, ultimately, this communique was issued under unfavorable conditions for the United States.

But at any rate, the United States has taken yet another step forward in threatening Iran.

If the behind-the-scenes incidents at the Tokyo summit fall under the first category, then the United States is trying to form a united front to inflict pressure on Iran. This is because it is well aware that the sensitivity of the region with the critical conditions in Azerbaijan and Iraq and the instability in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and—a little further away—Tajikistan do not allow it to carry out attacks similar to the attack on Iraq, at least not at this moment. However, economic pressure in the form of extending economic sanctions and imposing limitations in foreign trade can be used as an effective lever. Meanwhile, if through forged documents and chimerical allegations—a field in which the Western mass media excels—Iran is portrayed as a terrorist country and a supporter of terrorism, then there will be no need for the continuation of past plans. Thus, the United States must coordinate with other countries, and the Tokyo summit was the springboard for this leap.

But if the Tokyo summit falls under the second category, then apparently Europe will no longer allow itself to be exploited by the United States.

A Europe that has trade transactions with regional countries, namely Iran, that are more or at least equal to the transactions it has with the United States is not easily prepared to sacrifice its current economy, which needs reconstruction. But Europe still has a long way to go before achieving true political independence in the post-Cold War era. Therefore, in the Tokyo summit Clinton achieved less than he expected.

At any rate, there is not a great change in the reaction against our country. Even if Europe does not truly intend to follow the United States, it is thinking of staying in the G-7. This is proven by its inability to solve the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the heart of Europe.

However, the United States will try to strengthen the tone of similar paragraphs that begin with the word "request," and this effort will ultimately be transformed into an offensive policy aimed at inflicting pressure and even serious threats. The United States is determined to implement this policy. We should not forget that, according to many observers, the United Nations has become an extension of the U.S. State Department.

Under such conditions we have to move forward with great alertness and make our diplomacy as dynamic as possible. And if the Tokyo summit is considered to have shaped a new policy, we should expect other countries to become the target of this policy in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to coordinate with these countries and to compile a deterrent strategy under the current critical conditions.

The United States is thinking of a world with one master, a master who carries a rifle on his shoulder but whose mass media always portrays him with a smile on his face.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Role of Women, Stability

LD2007094493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpt] At a meeting with members of the Central Council of the Zaynab Society today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that women should have a more active presence in the political and social scenes of the country. The president pointed out that before the Islamic revolution Iranian women were not effectively active in the political and social fields. He remarked: In recent years, the politico-social activities of the country's women, even in remote townships, has grown substantially and this will undoubtedly have quite an impact on families and on the upbringing of the next generation of children.

The president expressed delight at the active presence of women in management and teaching posts. He also thought the rise in the number of female deputies in the Islamic Majles is important. He said: The Majles, as the legislative power, is the best place for women to participate in decisionmaking and in shaping the destiny of the country, especially with regard to women's issues. Elsewhere in his speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that curently Iran is the most stable country in the region. He said: The stability of Iranian society and our successful long-term policies of reconstruction have made the enemy lose hope of weakening the revolution from the inside and now the enemy has taken to creating difficulties and looking for excuses to weaken Iran. He emphasized: By respecting the strong principles of the velayat-e faqih [Guardianship of the Supreme Jurisconsult] and preserving awareness and by strengthening cooperation and unity, we will be able to neutralize this latest sinister plot of the enemies as well. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni Speaks on 'Islamic Struggle'

LD1907121393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] On the third day of law enforcement week—the day of law enforcement and the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice—officials, commanders, and headquarters personnel of the force were addressed today by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the Jamaran Mosque.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyed Ahmad Khomeyni said the establishment of security is the result of the

consistent efforts of the personnel and officials of the law enforcement forces, and added that the relentless fight against drug dealers and bandits is among the most important duties of the force in safeguarding the achievements of the revolution and security of society.

He said dealers and bandits follow in the path of colonialist policies and want to destroy the aims of the revolution and the experienced forces of Islamic society. It is therefore the brave and faithful personnel and commanders of the law enforcement forces who must relentlessly fight against those who threaten the health and welfare of society, and they should know that the fight against these elements of corruption and destruction is the same as the act of worship.

Pointing to the duty of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice as being one of the great duties of Islam, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyed Ahmad Khomeyni addressed the personnel and commanders of the law enforcement forces, stressing that the duty of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice should achieve its desirable goal through guidance.

In conclusion he said that the growth of Islamic movements in the world is the result of the Iranian people's steadfastness and strength, and added: The process of events in the Muslim countries of Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, occupied Palestine, Tajikistan, and Egypt indicate that America and world arrogance cannot hinder the expansion of the Islamic struggle of the freedom-seeking Muslims. America says that it has entered an open fight against Islamic Iran, but our people have repeatedly shown that their determined will to move toward Islamic ideals cannot be altered.

Law Enforcement Chief Claims Success Against Drugs Gangs

LD2007105793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The commander of the law enforcement forces announced that the actions taken by the forces to smash the gangs of narcotics smugglers will continue with fervor and the law enforcement officers will pursue the task of establishing calm and security in the border regions with all the facilities at their disposal.

Brigadier General Seyfollahi, in an interview with our correspondent today, referred to the death of the leader of one of the most notorious gangs of narcotics traffickers known as Eyduk. He said: The members of the Naru'i gang have also been arrested in a successful operation.

He described the actions taken by the law enforcement forces in controlling social vice—especially throughout the Greater Tehran area—as successful. He said: The presence of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in the ceremonies marking the start of law enforcement week has strengthened the morale and resolve of the law enforcement officers.

New Customs Regulations on Exports, Imports

LD1907120293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpt] New customs regulations on goods accompanying passengers leaving the country and the import of some commercial goods were announced. Our correspondent reports:

The deputy in charge of customs affairs at Iran's Customs Office emphasized at a news conference this morning that the general policy is to provide greater facilities and lessen the time taken for clearing exports and imports. In connection with new regulations governing goods leaving the country and the amount of foreign exchange that travelers are allowed, he said that up to $10,000 worth of banknotes or travelers' checks will be allowed for each passport and that the ceiling value on handicrafts will be raised, as will the ceiling value on books, other printed material, and manufactured goods—as long as these are not for commercial use. He added that each passenger will be allowed to take out of the country one carpet or two small handwoven or machine-made small carpets and that each passenger will also be allowed to take out three kilograms of caviar after producing a sales slip from Iran's Joint Stock Fisheries Company.

Regarding the import of bicycles and motorbikes, the deputy in charge of customs affairs said that the import of all kinds of bicycles and spare parts is permitted and motorcyles will also be allowed in until 23 July; after that date, the Heavy Industries Ministry will issue further notices on the regulations governing the types of motocycles that can be imported. [passage omitted]

Arak Oil Refinery Begins Experimental Operation

LD1907185893 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Thanks to the 98 percent completion of the first phase of Arak's seventh oil refinery, 60 percent of this huge oil complex of the country began experimental work and its first refined products were supplied to the consumer market. The head of Arak's seventh refinery, announcing the news, said: So far the refinery's distillation unit, the caustic soda and nitrogen manufacturing units, and the affiliated services including water and electricity supply and steam and compressed air units have begun work experimentally; and 100 percent of the capacity will become operational during some ceremonies in the near future. The experimental operation of the first phase began 10 days ago and during this period 90,000 barrels of crude oil have been injected into the refinery's production lines daily, producing 4.8 million

litres of kerosene and diesel fuel, 45,000 barrels of fuel oil [mazut] and raw gasoline, and 200 tonnes of liquified gas. These products were sent to the country's consumer market via the Tehran-Hamadan oil pipeline. Lead-free gasoline will also be sold to the market soon.

He added: The first phase of the refinery comprises nine productions units and it is the first refinery in the country which can produce lead-free gasoline with a high octane number. The refinery is equipped with closed circuit control system, increasing precision and speed of the refining process; and plays a significant role in reducing wastage.

Referring to the point that the fuel oil will be exported abroad, he went on: The refined products of the first phase are worth $1 billion per year and the capital investment will be recovered in about five years' time.

The head of the building project of the refinery, too, said: In the first phase of this refinery, there are 71 oil storage tanks, with total capacity of 7 million barrels and 2,080 different types of machinery and equipment are installed with total weight of 43,000 tonnes.

* Passenger Terminal Opens in Zayandehrud

93LA0108C Tehran SALAM in Persian 22 Jun 93 p 15

[Text] Esfahan—SALAM correspondent. To facilitate passenger transportation to the southwestern cities and the province of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, the Zayandehrud Passenger Terminal has been opened in Esfahan.

Our correspondent reports that the Zayandehrud Passenger Terminal has been put into operation to improve the transportation system, reduce the economic and social losses caused by heavy traffic, prevent the wasting of the time of citizens, and to free the city of existing problems.

At the opening ceremonies for the terminal, First Engineer Manuchehr, executive director of the Esfahan Terminals Organization, presented a report on the activities carried out.

As the ceremonies continued, Engineer 'Aziman, mayor of Esfahan, gave a speech in which he discussed important urban problems. He said that transportation is one of the most important issues in urban life. He said: If we are going to pass lightly over the issue of urban and nonurban transportation, we will cause much damage to those who live in those complexes.

He said: Because of its special characteristics, the city of Esfahan is a crossroads and attracts many travelers from all over the country. With regard to traffic problems, the mayor of Esfahan has done a lot of work, including building terminals, streets, byways and multilevel intersections and establishing traffic control and driving regulations.

The mayor of Esfahan added: This is the third passenger terminal to be opened in the city of Esfahan, and in the near future we will have Phase 2 of the Kaveh Terminal and in the next few months we will have the opening of the Safeh Terminal in the south of Esfahan.

It is necessary to mention that the Zayandehrud Passenger Terminal was built on a site of more than 10,000 square meters, with a foundation of 1,700 square meters and at a cost of more than 800 million rials to buy the land and the building. The terminal building was designed with a connected foundation and passage, reinforced concrete and exposed concrete columns with load-bearing brick walls and a block beam ceiling. The waiting room ceiling was built with an eight-rib dome on eight columns. At the ceremonies opening this terminal, Ayatollah Taheri, the religious ruler's representative, the Friday Imam of Esfahan and a number of officials were present.

Nepal

Four Killed, 60 Injured During Transport Strike

BK1907154493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 19 Jul 93

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 19 (AFP)—Police opened fire on strikers in five districts of Nepal Monday [19 July] killing at least four and wounding 60 while 3,000 were arrested during a nationwide transport strike called by communists, party sources said.

Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) General Secretary Madhan Kumar Nepal told AFP two were shot dead in Chitaun District and one each in Damak and Rupandehi, all outside the capital. Officials, however, confirmed only one death and 34 injuries including 14 policemen in five separate districts where the firing took place.

"Police opened fire...without any warning. They shot at demonstrators led by NCP-UML MPs," Nepal said.

He added that the government had arrested some NCP-UML cadres making and pasting posters in Kathmandu on Sunday, but that most of the 3,000 arrests were made on Monday.

The communist leader, whose party along with six other communist factions launched the two-day strike to press for the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, charged police with making "indiscriminate arrests" to create tension and "panic the general public."

Nepal also said that at Gulmi, 190 kilometres (118 miles) west of Kathmandu, the Chief District Officer (CDO) had ordered police to open fire at the protest marchers. But when the police refused, the CDO fired into the crowd. He said that at the industrial township of Hetaunda, 180 kilometres (112) miles south of here, an angry crowd attacked a police inspector who tried to shoot them.

A senior official of the Nepalese Home Ministry told AFP police had opened fire to disperse demonstrators erecting barricades to block traffic on highways linking Kathmandu to the rest of the country.

"An unruly crowd attacked the police guards who tried to remove the barricades on the highways," he said, but was unable to give casualty and arrest figures saying they had not been compiled from all areas.

Party sources said Devendra Paudyel, secretary general of the left-wing All Nepal Free Nationalist Students Union, was one of those arrested.

Private and foreign missions' vehicles kept off Kathmandu streets fearing stoning attacks, witnesses said.

Police said early Monday that some unidentified attackers stoned and tried to set alight a milk tanker owned by Dairy Corporation at Pulckok in Patan district while in Kathmandu four vehicles—a Home Ministry car, an army jeep and two corporation vehicles were damaged.

About 3,000 communist activists staged an anti-government demonstration in industrial township of Hetaunda, 190 kilometres (119 miles) south of Kathmandu, stoning and smashing the windshields of four police vehicles.

A Communist action committee convenor and parliamentarian Pradeep Nepal told AFP that 16 parliamentarians were among the 3,000 leftists arrested.

The NCP-UML has strongly criticized the Koirala government for violating the country's law and the people's political rights.

"This action of the Koirala government has added fuel to fire," Pradeep Nepal said, adding that he believed despite dialogue attempts to defuse the political tension, "The government does not want to solve the problem."

Earlier police said long distance public and goods transport had been disrupted by demonstrations in south-western Chitaun district, the main route for traffic into and out of Kathmandu.

Deputy Mayor of Hetaunda town, Haribol Mahat, United Pepople's Front district Secretary Ram Krishna Shrestha and several other leftist activists were arrested there.

At Nepalgunj, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southwest of here, some communist workers lay on the road to halt traffic, police said.

Life was also disrupted in the eastern industrial towns of Biratnagar and Janakpur, while in the Kathmandu valley, all schools, colleges and factories were affected by the strike, witnesses said.

The communists have been demanding for a new judical commission under the chairmanship of a functioning supreme court judge to probe the May 16 jeep accident in which two of their senior leaders were killed.

An earlier government investigation commission attributed the accident to the driver's negligence but a separate investigation carried out by the communists found that the two were murdered and the driver was involved in the plot.

Committee Set Up With Bhutan To Resolve Refugee Problem

BK1807112293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Kathmandu, July 18 (AFP)—After two rounds of hectic negotiations Bhutan and Nepal have agreed to form a ministerial-level joint committee to resolve the Bhutanese refugee problem in Nepal, the Foreign Ministry announced here Sunday [18 July].

A ministerial level delegation headed by Nepalese Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa had left Kathmandu for Thimpu last week for the talks.

A joint communique issued simultaneously in Thimpu and Kathmandu on Sunday said: "Nepal and Bhutan have agreed to form a ministerial level joint committee seeking to resolve the problem of Bhutanese refugees presently taking shelter in Nepals southeastern district."

The committee will comprise six members, three from each side, headed by the respective home ministers, and the first meeting of the committee will be held in Kathmandu in the near future, the joint press communique said.

Before taking any concrete steps for the repatriation of the refugees, the committee will categorize the people presently living in Jhapa district, 390 kilometres (243 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, it said.

A Nepalese Home Ministry source said that more than 100,000 Bhutanese refugees have entered Nepal for food and shelter.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has established six refugee camps for the refugees while food and other facilities are supplied by various non-governmental organizations.

The U.S., Germany, Japan, Australia, Canada and other countries are helping the UNHCR to run the camps.

The Bhutanese, of Nepalese descent, had escaped to Nepal after Bhutanese authorities clamped strict cultural code, dealing out harsh puniative measures to anyone who disobeyed them.

Pakistan

Sharif Announces Resignation in Address to Nation

BK1907120193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1740 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif; place not given—live]

[Text] My dear countrymen: Peace be upon you. I have decided to give up power. I hope that the schemes we had initiated for the progress and prosperity of the nation will continue. On 17 April, when I said that I would not resign, I said it with the intention of continuing in your service and with the process of construction and development. When I said that I would not dissolve the National Assembly, it was said to honor the power of your mandate. When I said that I would not be dictated to, it was uttered to assert the rights of an elected prime minister. I did not utter these words to ride in official cars decorated with the national flag and with police escorts. I have followed a principle to eradicate the blemishes of backwardness, poverty, and penury from the lovely faces of Pakistanis and to decorate them with brilliance and dignity.

I did not refuse to resign, because I did not want to be a decorative and ineffective prime minister. I did not refuse to dissolve the National Assembly because I did not want to see the decisions of the Parliament neglected. I did not want to sit in air conditioned halls and fulfill the craving to make speeches.

I do not want to become a prime minister who cannot serve the country and its people, who cannot eradicate the sorrow and anguish of the people who give their votes and best wishes, who cannot reach out to help the mothers and sisters subjected to atrocities, who cannot provide justice to the poverty-stricken people, and who cannot give a piece of land to the landless peasants who have led a life of bondage for centuries. My dear countrymen, you have before you the strategy adopted at the hour of trial by those who chant the name of democracy in your democratic country. You also know who was sitting quietly at home after the destruction of the assemblies and who put up a fight when the mandate of the people was desecrated.

Now every politician will have to present himself to you with a list of his deeds. When this time comes, you must ask them where they were when Nawaz Sharif was fighting the war for the survival of democracy. I cannot tell you more. My chest is full of secrets and every secret smolders like a wound. If I revealed those secrets to you, then you would rise like a storm and attack the conspirators who tried to shatter your dreams by blocking the process of economic development for their own personal wishes and interests. But I cannot reveal those secrets to you. My responsibilities have sealed my lips and the interests of the country and the nation have tied my tongue.

You yourselves know many things. And I will tell you whatever I can. After the restoration of the National Assembly, I was under the impression that the verdict of the people and the court would be accepted in a civilized way, and those who ridiculed the destiny of the nation would allow us to serve it without any hindrance. I thought that within a few weeks, I would be able to fix the system that was affected by the unconstitutional act, and resume the economic activities that were disrupted by the dissolution of the elected government. I thought that I would provide funding for the schemes launched by us—despite stringent economic constraints and political rivalry in order—to implement them expeditiously.

I spent my days and nights to accomplish the schemes. But I have to deal with those people who erect hurdles to every task carried out for the welfare of our country and poor people.

They do not like to see change in the status of peasants, agriculturalists, and farm workers, or see their children happy. They do not want to see electricity and roads in the areas cut off from civilization, where our brothers and sisters are constrained to lead a life under subhuman conditions. They do not want the poor people to reap the benefits of the modern age.

They do not like to see provisions made so that educated youths can earn their livelihood with dignity. They do not like to see that loans, taxis, and tractors under the yellow cab and yellow tractor scheme are provided to people without land or property so that they too can call something in God's world their own. They do not want concrete arrangements to protect flood-stricken poor people from this natural calamity that strikes them every year. They do not want to see mothers, sisters, and daughters who have been living a helpless life for centuries provided with economic resources so they can stand on their own feet and achieve their human rights. They do not like to see widows, orphans, and the destitute granted the right to lead dignified lives. They do not want to see our agriculture cross the barriers of backwardness and enter the new era of development. They do not like to see new industries established in Pakistan, people getting new jobs, and the country freed from dependence on others. They do not like to see highways, ports, and airports constructed here and heavy industries established that can help Pakistan enter the 21st century with honor. They do not like people who carry another man's load like an animal just to feed their children being given their honor, and do not want this shameful and inhuman practice done away with.

Machinations, conspiracies, misinterpretation of constitutional provisions, and undue arguments are all aimed at deceiving the people and depriving them of progress and prosperity. They want a backward, poor, illiterate, and meek nation over which they can continue to rule. They were not troubled by a few days of my rule. They feel troubled visualizing Nawaz Sharif providing jobs to the unemployed and the amenities of life to the people, making them the owners of some little things to enable

the poor of this country to shun their trait of slavery and learn to walk with their heads up and speak out when they want to. Such a situation would rob these people of their dominance forever. These people insist on using politics as a tool to suppress the poor people.

These people visit the rural areas, farms, alleys, and settlements like spectators only during election campaigning. When I visit these places as the prime minister, they feel insulted that this man, who holds the helm of power, is sharing joys and sorrows with the poor people in stained clothes in their huts, sitting on their cots or on the ground. They also want me to restrict politics within the precincts of the houses of authority after the elections and engage in palace conspiracies. I have been watching this game of palace conspiracies for years. But what does the nation get out of it? Misery, backwardness, persistent crises, and continuous uncertainty. Is it our nation's destiny to face only uncertainty and chaos? Do the people of our country live only to overcome a crisis and then encounter a new one? Definitely not. Is it the destiny of Pakistan to be infamous for poverty, unemployment, lawlessness, disease, illiteracy, and backwardness? Certainly not. Should we allow our lives and the lives of our future generation to be afflicted by these conspiracies and deceptions that destroyed our predecessors? I do not accept this.

I wanted to clear the ugly heritage of the past and build a new world. But the enemies of development did not like it. They did not like working for the nation's prosperity and the supremacy of Pakistan. They were worried how they would face us in the next elections if we continued the reconstruction and development work at this pace. They conspired to restrict me in a bid to avoid a defeat and tried to seek power through the back door. They did not even care if their action contributed to the deprivation of the people and the country's backwardness, and created difficulties for a stable democratic government that enjoyed a solid majority. An impression was created again and again in an organized manner that the country was facing a political crisis.

I wish they realized the extent of the damage they have inflicted on Pakistan in the outside world by raising a hue and cry about a crisis. I wish they knew how difficult it is to build the infrastructure of a developing country, and how difficult it is to restore if the infrastructure is damaged. They did not inflict this harm on me, but on their country which belongs to them as well as me. It is not the duty of the government alone to protect the honor and dignity of the country and its goodwill, but also of the opposition and every citizen. I would have no complaint if any opponent of Pakistan accused us of facing a crisis. But I did not expect it from our own people.

What is the definition of a crisis? If you want to assess a crisis, then you should review the situation in 1970 and 1977. A vast majority of the people was opposed to the government in both cases. Demonstrations and strikes were going on and the governments became so helpless that they had to seek the Army's help. But despite this, they failed to control the situation. If the situation is like this, then one can call it a crisis. But what is the situation today? There have been no strikes in the country for the past two years and nine months. And the only strike that was observed was against the dissolution of our government.

A call for a long march was given by some people last year, but it was badly boycotted by the people and the organizers of the call had to run away and abandon their program. The people did not support them again when they called a long march for the second time. On the contrary, the people became aware of the conspiracies against the government. They want to run their businesses as usual. No section of the people is interested in worsening the situation; instead, they are expressing their displeasure against those trying to aggravate the situation. And if there is no agitation among the people against the government, then where is the crisis? The situation is in fact contrary to that.

Only a few weeks ago, the people wholeheartedly expressed their solidarity with us against the dissolution of their elected government and probably they are being punished for this. The so-called crisis was originated by some people in some drawing rooms. This crisis is only on paper, in statements, and in conspiracies, but nowhere in the country. This is why the salvo of a campaign of the so-called long march was launched in a peculiar manner. Protest movements are always organized by the people. But this time, the announcement for launching such a movement was made by disputed provincial rulers. Can it be termed as adherence to the Constitution if the governor of a province, despite being the representative of the federation, starts making announcements for attacking the federation with the help of the provincial chief minister? Was he supposed to do that? Was he authorized to use the provincial government's resources and authority and spend millions of rupees to launch a publicity campaign against the federal government, to map out a plan to block the roads by putting buses as roadblocks, and to formulate the program to bring suffering to the people by disrupting daily life?

These people wanted to punish Nawaz Sharif for his love of the poor people, and were anxious to punish me for my love of the people and the nation by erecting hurdles in the path of the government. They could not stage the long march, and they did not really intend to. Their call for the long march was merely a scheme to wind up the democratic system. They were hatching a conspiracy not against me but against democracy.

Had it only been a question of my position, I would have relinquished power without delay. But I knew that my political rivals and opponents of democracy —who are either not in the assembly or are in the minority in the parliament—would not spare any effort to harm the country if they were allowed to play their games. The people still remember the stories about their 20-month

rule. You also remember their lack of principles and the restlessness which they exhibited in joining the unconstitutional caretaker government. Had I succumbed to their pressures and left the country to the mercy of such people, I would have been guilty of neglecting my national responsibilities. Praise be to God, I fulfilled my national responsibilities to the best of my abilities. Now you have to judge who you want to trust with the future of the nation. I would only say that this is a very crucial time for Pakistan. We are surrounded by threats from all four sides. Key decisions are being made in the region the impact of which will be felt for centuries. If we do not overcome the state of confusion, disunity, and disorder in our country, and if others make these decisions on their own while we are entangled in our domestic conflicts, then can we not expect those decisions to go against us?

These are not minor decisions. They include decisions regarding the fate of Kashmir, the existence of Bosnia, the issue of the survival and continuation of Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, decisions about the machinations to retard progress in enforcing the Islamic system, and about the future of Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan and the Central Asian states. How can we tackle these issues if there is instability in the country? We need stability at this juncture, and especially at a time when Israel has become influential and active in our neighborhood.

Foreign investment has already stopped, owing to political squabbles that have even scared local investors. The administrations in two provinces are in disarray. The administrative machinery has been in a state of uncertainty. Known political adventurists have joined hands to push the country toward the precipice of confusion and disorder. Had I adopted the path of confrontation to save my position, it would not have made any difference to the professional politicians, but the situation in our beloved country, Pakistan, would have definitely become worse. We would have reached such a bad state of internal disorder that it would have been difficult to maintain our existence, and our country would not have been able to play any role in this region or in the Islamic community. At a time when the Islamic countries are looking to Pakistan for leadership, our political adventurists are trying to deprive the Pakistani nation of its own leadership.

My dear countrymen, we have seen selfishness and violation of principles in politics before, but the limits that are being flouted now are unprecedented in history. The astonishing thing is that even the people who had taken an oath to safeguard the security and Constitution of Pakistan chose to harm the democratic system because of their animosity toward me.

The real conflict lay not in our working relationship with them nor in the dismissal or restoration of the provincial governments. The basic problem lay in the discrepancies in the Constitution, which were created due to certain personal wishes and whims. If these personal whims were even partly overcome, then this artificial crisis would have been resolved. The atmosphere of uncertainty would have been eliminated, but it required a certain amount of sincerity. But even after waiting patiently for a long time, the people were denied the opportunity to witness this display of sincerity. Everything was all right and intact at its place, but nothing was allowed to work. I utilized all political, constitutional, and legal methods to find a way to eliminate the state of uncertainty, but my straightforward approach was construed as a political gimmick. And in response to my sincerity, opposition activities against me were intensified. With the help of the conspirators, my opponents started to exercise their influence on the unconstitutional provincial governments and then tried to prove the veracity of their claims about a crisis by utilizing the provincial administration and their resources. The people's money was used against the people themselves. The workers were sold. Millions of rupees were paid for staging an imaginary protest and the people disloyal to me joined hands with those who had betrayed their own workers and tried to weaken the country because they knew that Nawaz Sharif could not be weakened. It is good that they were unable to succeed in their attempt, because if they had succeeded in doing what they planned, you would have been forced to forget the misdeeds of the 38-day caretaker government.

You might recall that on 18 April I left foreign exchange reserves worth 23 billion rupees in the exchequer. But, during the past 38 days, these reserves plummeted to a mere 9 billion rupees. I was concerned about this state of the country's economy and in view of its miserable condition, I had offered to hold a dialogue with the opposition to reach a reconciliation and understanding to save Pakistan from further damage. But they were unwilling to hear anything proper. They had no respect for the Constitution, Parliament, or the judiciary. They did not realize their responsibilities toward the state. I wished they would adopt some appropriate stand, but that did not happen. We could neither afford to nor should we have maintained this state of uncertainty. Now I can say with full confidence that certain disgruntled persons and some political urchins supporting them were actively working to eliminate the democratic system in Pakistan. The credit to safeguard this system in the country goes only to those democracy-loving people who, everyone now believes, will not accept an undemocratic system in any shape or form. And if the people in this last decade of this current century decide to resist anything, no power—no matter how great—can impose its will on them. The Parliament and the judiciary played the second greatest role in ensuring the continuance of the democratic system and for that I pay tribute to them on behalf of the entire nation.

My dear countrymen, we are now at a decisive juncture in our history. While on one side there is confusion, lawlessness, and misery, on the other we see a bright and prosperous future. There are disappointments and failures on one side and the promising struggle and message of success on the other.

Soon after the 1990 elections, we started our march toward our goal, but we were forced to turn back to the same point again from where we saw the path leading toward confusion and disunity. We have to avoid that path once again and save everything that you and I have jointly built. The issue is not limited only to the state, politics, or power. The hidden hands of our traditional enemy are extending toward Pakistan's territorial integrity. Plans are being made to destroy all those organizations—by the grace of God they are still intact—which help in the consolidation and strengthening of the state. You have given me the mandate to serve you until 1995. Had I wished, I would have made compromises to maintain my position, but I have always kept the country's interest above my own position and power. Earlier, when our construction and development works were blocked by acts of sabotage, I did not care for power and declared my intention to break all fetters, and as a result of this I had to relinquish power. After giving up power, my conscience was satisfied that I had answered God's call. When I took the reins of power in my hands again as a result of the decision of the people and the judiciary, a campaign was launched under a premeditated plan to destroy the institutions that served as the protectors of the Constitution and the democratic system, institutions which are the basic pillars of the state structure. When every institution was being destroyed, I became concerned about saving the country, keeping aside my political expediencies. Our opponents had gathered to close the door of democracy on the people by pushing them into dark and closed alleys. We had to come forward to keep these doors open, because the survival of Pakistan now depends on the survival of the democratic system. If there is democracy, then there is Pakistan and if Pakistan exists, then we all exist. If, God forbid, Pakistan is harmed, then there will be no democracy, no power, and no elections.

My dear countrymen, I am fully aware of your sentiments. I am aware that you are tired of repeated elections. And when I, respecting your wishes, talked of stability to steer the country out of its state of confusion and uncertainty, I was accused of evading elections. Every conspirator and political orphan started making demands for immediate elections. They thought I would continue to stick to my post and they would continue to create confusion and disunity. Had I been confident that the roots of the democratic system were strong and able to absorb the assault of the conspiracies, I would have confronted them in all fields by the grace of God and with your support. None of them would have had the courage to even slightly shake your duly elected government until 1995, by the grace of God. But the roots of the democratic system are still not so strong as to bear the further assaults of conspiracies, and Pakistan is not in a position to endure the further shock of an undemocratic system because of its economic, social, and constitutional situation. If we want to save Pakistan, we will have to thwart all conspiracies against it.

My dear countrymen, the foundation of the conspiracies against Pakistan was laid when efforts were made to sabotage the election process here. The 1970 elections were so fair that even the opposition could not raise objections to them. But the minority party refused to accept the right of the majority party to assume power and established its authority on the remaining part of the country after it was dismembered. Later, in 1977, when the ruling party got the opportunity to hold elections, the people securing the majority of the support through rigging were deprived of their seats, which led to widespread protests in the nation because the people refused to recognize the assemblies created through fraud. In 1985, the same party declined to take part in the election process and did not recognize the assemblies. In 1988, they again leveled allegations of irregularities, but when they were given power, they not only accepted those assemblies but also staged widespread protests against their dissolution. In 1990, they participated in the elections with full force and enthusiasm, but when the people defeated them in elections in view of their performance during their 20-month rule, they again refused to accept the election results. This record shows how much faith they have in elections and democracy. The slogans for democracy and elections do not behoove a party that has never accepted election results. But, as you know, they raise the slogans for elections only to see that none of the systems runs successfully, and that no government can become strong by accomplishing tasks of construction and development. When they are themselves in power, they try not to let any other party rise, no matter how many records of irregularities need to be created.

My dear countrymen, they are answerable for their own deeds and I am for my own words and deeds. You have already tested me during the past 33 months. I am not a hypocrite. I cannot deceive the gullible and naive people with the mesmerizing speeches of professional politicians. Political collusion and conspiracies are against my temperament. If I could do this, I would have gained the support of my opponents by fulfilling their demands. You should know that several such demands were sent to me, but I hate this type of politics. I only believe in work. I wish to continue to do practical work silently instead of making tall claims, and I wish to show you the results so that you yourself will appreciate my performance.

My brothers and sisters, I am fortunate that you have appreciated whatever I could do for you during this brief period of time. But, if you were to be made aware of the circumstances that I have had to pass through, then a wave of indignation and anguish would spread among you.

I tolerated allegations against myself and my family. I was rewarded for my selfless service with a campaign of character assassination against me, started by the 38-day unconstitutional government on radio and television. But I did and do not indulge in such things, neither before nor now. Hurdles were erected in the path of every step I took for the welfare of the poor and the supremacy of the nation, and I was harassed by various means as if I had committed a crime by drawing up schemes to help the poor. I will only say that it was

resolved to destroy the country's economy, and stability was threatened. The provinces were instigated against the federation. I then decided not to participate in this dirty game of politics, because if I had insisted on my constitutional rights and powers, these people would have followed a path harmful to the Federation of Pakistan.

At this juncture, I decided that there was no alternative but to bring them before the people's court. I decided that the time had come to face them in elections. Even those people who used to demand elections for the sake of retarding the democratic process, and who had not won a single seat throughout their life, started coming forward to challenge me in an election. Today, I have accepted their challenge. Now they should come before the nation and prove how credible they were in their demand for elections. I hope that these people will not run away from the elections now.

I have not made this decision to face the electorate under any pressure. If there is any pressure on me, it is only the pressure of the interests of the country and the nation. I have not made this decision under any duress. If I am fearful of anything, it is of God. I have not made this decision for power, because if I lusted for power I would continue to cling to the power I have enjoyed until now. I have come forward with a mission [preceding word in English] in politics and this mission is to end unemployment in Pakistan, to end illiteracy in Pakistan, to end poverty in Pakistan, to end lawlessness in Pakistan, to end oppression in Pakistan, to end the evil of narcotics in Pakistan, to end the Kalashnikov culture in Pakistan, to end confrontation in Pakistan, and to end opportunism. These are the only aims of my politics. I will not consider myself a successful politician until I provide you with a system in which you are free from unemployment, your dignity and honor are protected, and you are able to stand in the comity of nations with your head held high.

So far, I had been a victim of many exigencies. I believed that even if I became a victim of excesses, I would bear with it so that the work to better the lives of the masses would not be stopped. I acted with patience for the sake of my love for my country and the nation. My opponents, considering me helpless, continued to amass political fortunes. But they made a mistake. If they had not stood in the way of the process of economic development and if they had not created dangers for the Federation of Pakistan, perhaps I would have forced myself to continue to take measures to advance the nation-building program. But when they adopted the tactic of destroying the development process, the Federation, and even the institutions that are considered the main pillars of the state, I decided I had to face them.

I will now have an open war with them on every front. Every way that causes harm to the democratic system and the Federation of Pakistan will be blocked. If you have trust in me, I will also ask you to make me successful in the elections this time with much more than a two-thirds majority so that the loopholes in the Constitution, which these people exploited to create hurdles for an elected and constitutional government, can be removed. Right now I am not coming to you to help me win the elections. I am telling you the truth that I am not coming to you just to win the elections, but I am putting myself at your service with a view to bringing about decisive changes in the system. I also have a firm conviction that you too desire these changes.

My dear countrymen! I was presented with a demand to hold elections in October or November this year and when I insisted on fulfilling the term of the National Assembly, the demand was repeated even more zealously. These people thought I was trying to avoid elections. When I said that the elections should be held after these months, these people struck a stubborn posture that the elections should not be held after October. Why were they insisting on October? You know about this secret and I was also aware of it. Only time will tell whether the politics of conspiracy and trickery will succeed or if the politics of transparency and cleanliness will triumph. They did not want to go beyond October. I have now decided to hold elections in October.

My dear countrymen! I am grateful to you for the overwhelming confidence you placed in me in 1990. I tried my utmost within my capability to take the country along the path toward construction, progress, and prosperity. I achieved some successes and on a few occasions I was ineffectual. The warm affection expressed for me after the illegal dismissal of my government is the greatest treasure of my life. I will be unable to pay back this debt even if I spent the rest of my life reciprocating this love. And, if you give me another opportunity to serve you again, you will see, God willing, that I will work as hard as possible to repay this debt—the debt of love for the motherland, the debt of young and old, mothers and sisters, the debt of the tears that were shed as an expression of sympathy with me, the debt of those prayers offered to bring me back to the prime minister's office. Today I am coming to you after relinquishing power with these cherished gifts of love expressed in the form of your tears and prayers for me. I pray to God Almighty that if this responsibility is again written into my destiny, it should not be for my personal well-being, but for the country and nation, the welfare of the masses, and the supremacy of Pakistan and that I should not feel helpless in serving God's creatures and in performing legitimate tasks for the people's welfare and development.

I am confident that you will give us an even bigger, more overwhelming mandate than before. My confidence and trust are borne out of your sincere thoughts, wisdom, and affection. I also enjoy this affection because I am firmly committed to working for the realization of the dreams of Allame Iqbal and Mohammad Ali Jinnah to make Pakistan stand high in the comity of nations as a progressive, democratic, and Islamic welfare state. The establishment of the Islamic system of justice and equality is my top priority.

Dear countrymen! After today's (?speech), we will, God willing, meet at election rallies. On this occasion, I want to express my gratitude to all those members of the national and provincial assemblies and the Senate who, rising above all fear and greed, stood beside me in my time of trial. I am also obliged to those members of my cabinet who were a source of strength and courage for me at each step. I am thankful to all respected religious scholars who made very sincere efforts to end the political tension. I will always remember their love and mercy. I also express my thanks for the spiritual leaders whose prayers, as always, were with me. I also pay tribute to Pakistan's Armed Forces which rejected all propaganda regarding chaos and instability and which made constitutional amendments possible through the exercise of patience and restraint and played their role professionally in saving the country and the nation from instability. I also pay tribute from the bottom of my heart to the national press. I salute the courts and lawyers for maintaining the highest tradition of justice. I am also grateful to all dutiful officers and employees of the administrations of all four provinces. I am personally grateful to all officers and employees of the Prime Minister's House and the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Their love kept me from ever feeling separated from the people.

Now, let us move forward toward the elections with new commitment, new intentions, and a new spirit for the construction of Pakistan. The people we are facing have lost their case at all places—from the Constitution to the courts and from the provincial assemblies to the Parliament. And, God willing, even now democracy will triumph, honesty will triumph, truth will triumph, facts will triumph, and Pakistan will triumph. And, the final triumph, God willing, will be yours.

My dear countrymen, today you are witness to a unique incident in the nation's history. Today, a prime minister is saying good-bye to the house of authority for the first time by his own consent and authority. By the grace of God, the majority I enjoy in the National Assembly will not be curtailed. I still have the majority in the Parliament. The opposition could not launch any movement against me. One of its long marches failed and another long march had to be suspended by the opposition itself due to fears that it would fail. No demonstration or strike could be staged against me. God bestowed on me success in the Supreme Court. The people from Khyber to Karachi stood by me. According to democratic and parliamentary norms and conventions, I have the right to stay in power for another two and a half years. But still I am relinquishing the office. I am not under any pressure, nor am I under any constraints. A person who is coerced into relinquishing office is not allowed such a long time or is permitted to announce his resignation over the television and radio himself. The prime minister's chair in Pakistan has always been made to be vacated. No one has decided on his own to relinquish the chair. God has bestowed this honor on this servant of yours that I myself decided to quit the office and I myself am announcing it too.

You might have heard that this chair is very strong. But I say that a man's faith in God is stronger than this chair. It is not very important either to acquire or reliquish this chair if one has strong faith in God. The importance lies in the objective and in the ideal. For some people, the chair is their ideal. But a person having love for the nation and the motherland considers this chair merely as an ordinary tool to realize the ideal. And when this chair becomes unfit to serve any purpose, then it is better to relinquish it. This chair now symbolizes only my personal status—the chair devoid of any power to ensure your rights. It became difficult to work for your prosperity, development, and welfare. I could stay on on this chair for another two and a half years. But if it could not serve any of your purposes, then how could it serve me either?

May God protect and help us all. May God take care of you. Long Live Pakistan.

Acting Prime Minister Discusses Election Arrangements

BK1907144693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, called on the acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] today. The forthcoming general elections was the main topic of the discussion. Arrangements for holding free and fair elections in peaceful conditions were considered in detail. They also reviewed the general political and economic situation in the country and also discussed matters pertaining to internal and external security.

Talking to newsmen informally in Islamabad today, the caretaker prime minister said his first priority is free and fair elections.

[Begin recording] [Qureshi] My first priority is free and fair elections. That is the first priority. That is the most important objective that the caretaker government has in terms of its tenure, and we are going to devote every effort to make sure that the system is good and free and it is perceived to be good by everyone. It is a transparent system where everyone can see that the elections are being fairly conducted and that everyone has an equal chance.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, have you decided about your caretaker cabinet?

[Qureshi] I hope to be able to do that within the next few days. We shall take a decision on it very quickly. I hope to have a small cabinet. It is not going to be a very large cabinet, but it is going to be an effective cabinet and it is going to consist of people who have experience, who have competence and who are dedicated to the development of Pakistan. They will be people who will be

nonpolitical. They will be people who have no expectations of participating in political activities. They will seem to be people who are independent and neutral. [end recording]

Views Economic Situation

BK1907164493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said the prime priority of his government is to ensure holding of general elections in a free, fair, and impartial atmosphere by providing equal opportunities to all the contesting parties. He was talking informally to newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon soon after his courtesy meeting with the former prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister said he also discussed the same issue with the acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, who assured him of his full cooperation for realization of this objective. He said he would form a small but effective cabinet within a couple of days and cabinet members would not be allowed to contest elections.

Asked about the economic policies of Nawaz Sharif government, the caretaker prime minister said they were in the right direction. About the country's economic situation, he said his government is reviewing the economic situation and would continue to work for free market economy, industrialization, and attracting investment. Admitting that the country is facing economic problems, he said the economic foundations of the country are sound and they believe that the economy can be improved to a desired level by making objective efforts.

Profile of Qureshi Highlights Economic Training

BK1907134193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jul 93 pp 1,10

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan's first Doctorate degree holder Prime Minister Moin A. Qureshi, is also the country's first chief executive with formal training in economics.

The practical economist is, however, taking over at a time when the official economy is in shambles.

He had initially declined to accept the offer of Premiership, a rarity in the Third World, because of personal reasons, but later accepted. The power troika could not agree on anyone else's name despite considering many. Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto also preferred him over the other two names that were suggested to her, that of A.G.N. Qazi and Dr. Mahboob ul Haq. He is said to have suffered from a serious ailment but is now fully recovered.

Celebrating his 63rd birthday on June 26 this year—a birthday he shares with Asif Ali Zardari—had retired from the highest post ever held by a Pakistani in the Bretton Wood sisters (the IMF and the World Bank), the Senior Vice President (Operations), last year.

Prior to that he headed the private sector project financing arm of the World Bank group, the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

His captainship of the IFC led to the conception of forming an international private sector bank, to finance private sector projects in the developing countries, from funds raised from international capital markets. The IFC performs the same function but with official funds.

He was working on these plans, at the same time undertaking consultancy and advisory assignments for many international organisations including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). His company was also a member of the consortium which prepared a report for the privatisation of the Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTC).

With the right international and national connections, luck and talent provided him with an opportunity to lead Pakistan at a crucial time in its history.

Giving reasons for his premature optional retirement he had said: "I have put in my best and had reached the peak; as a non-American I cannot be appointed the president of the bank. I decided leave it for searching the top elsewhere." However, the "top" he has ultimately reached is not the one he was expecting.

Before joining the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as economist, he was deputy chief in the Planning Board of Pakistan, the present Planning Commission.

While serving in the IMF, most of the time he was dealing with African states, the poorest of the poor countries. Later he was also the fund's resident representative in Ghana.

He has lectured and written extensively on development issues and his views are respected for "he is an extraordinary professional."

A graduate of the Punjab University, he has been there from 1949 to 51, earning B.A. (hons) and M.A. (Economics) degrees. He got his Ph. D. in economics from the Indiana University in 1953.

The news of his appointment has been received with expectations and delight in the economic ministries. As always, the bureaucrats were not prepared to talk on the record but they made personal remarks about him off the record.

"His appointment will help in getting the agreements, currently under negotiation with the IMF and the World Bank finalised," said one. Qureshi, said another, enjoys good personal relations and reputation in all the international financial institutions.

"As senior vice president (Operations) of the World Bank he has been dealing with all the major donors and

this would be a great help when the postponed aid-to-Pakistan consortium meeting takes place during his tenure said another.

A senior official maintained he has good relations in the United States administration, especially with officials dealing with economic issues.

Bhutto Proposes Election Steps, Praises Ishaq Khan

BK1907155893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Ms Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has made a number of proposals for holding free, fair, and impartial elections. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, she proposed that amendments to the Political Parties Act to check floor-crossing and that elections for the national and provincial assemblies be held simultaneously on 6 October so as to reduce the expenses of both the government and the candidates. She also proposed the dissolution of local bodies and the appointment of deputy commissioners as their administrators. The PPP leader proposed authorizing the election return officers to announce the election results, evolving a system for the identification of voters, redefining the electoral constituencies in Karachi and Hyderabad, and the (?appointment) of neutral bureaucrats, police officers, and bankers to important posts. She paid tribute to former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who as she said, sacrificed his position in the interests of the nation.

Jamaat-e-Islami Rejects Sharif Alliance Offer

BK1907124993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jul 93 p 1

[By Muhammad Akram]

[Text] Lahore—Leadership of the Jamaat-e-Islami [JI] has reportedly rejected an offer from Nawaz Shariff to enter into an electoral alliance with him besides reviving the shattered Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] for the forthcoming general elections, reliable sources informed The News on Sunday [18 July].

The Jamaat sources claimed that the offer was made to the Jamaat Amir recently by two federal ministers of Nawaz cabinet. It is further learnt the JI will contest the upcoming elections from the plattorm of Pakistan Islamic Front, which has recently been launched by the JI Amir, Qazi Hussain Ahmed.

A final decision would be taken in this regard during a high level meeting of Jamaat, scheduled to be held on July 19 (today) at Mansoora. The meeting will be presided over by the JI's Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmed and attended by Naib Amirs Khuram Murad, Ch [Chaudhary] Rehmat Ali, Senator Khurshid Ahmed, Prof. (Professor] Ghafoor Ahmed, Maulana Jan Muhammad Albaxi, Ch Muhammad Aslam Saleemi, Secretary General Syed Munawar Hassan and parliamentary party leader Liaqat Baloch.

The Jamaat leadership is of the view that Nawaz had always defied Jamaat despite the fact that it was the biggest ally of Nawaz in IJI. Jamaat circles maintained that the people of Pakistan had voted for IJI in the last general elections due to its radical manifesto which also promised the implementation of Shariat in the country. However, they regretted that after gaining power, not even a single step was taken by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for Islamisation.

Due to this very reason, they recalled, the secretary general of IJI, Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed, resigned from his office as a protest against the reluctance of the IJI president, Nawaz Shariff to implement the IJI manifesto in letter and spirit. They further reminded that even after the resignation of Prof. Ghafoor, Nawaz Sharif did not take any remedial step. Instead, he passed derogatory remarks against the Jamaat top brass.

The Jamaat circles opined that wrong policies and unilateral decisions taken by the IJI president finally shattered the alliance. They maintained that the latest offer of Nawaz Sharif for an electoral alliance was nothing but a political expediency. They claimed that due to the absence of Jamaat from IJI, the Islamist elements would not caste their votes for the alliance. Instead, Pakistan Islamic Front would grab these votes this time, they claimed.

The Amir of Jamaat had in his meeting with party workers categorically said that JI would not form any electoral alliance. However, the Jamaat will cooperate with religio-political parties of the country in the coming elections. He said for this purpose Jamaat was contacting Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, Prof Sajid Mir and Maulana Faziur Rehman.

Paper Claims India Planning Attack Before Elections

BK2007123493 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 Jul 93 p 3

[By Anwar Firoze]

[Text] Islamabad—India has formulated afresh its strategy to teach Pakistan a "lesson" and has completed all military preparations. On the one hand, it has dispatched fresh troops to occupied Kashmir to crush the freedom struggle, while on the other, it has deployed forces equipped with most modern weapons and tanks on its border with Pakistan. It has also deployed Prithvi and Agni missiles on its borders. India is receiving Israel's wholehearted cooperation. Israeli military experts have become active in occupied Kashmir and India against Pakistan. The alliance between these two anti-Pakistan countries has created a grave situation for Pakistan.

While India is making preparations for an all-out attack on Pakistan, trained saboteurs of its secret agency Research and Analysis Wing, RAW, and the Israeli secret agency Mosad have also entered into Pakistan with the task of setting off explosions in Pakistan, causing a rift among Pakistanis, and creating chaos in this country. Although the sensitive institutions of Pakistan have already been cautioned, informed sources say that the Indian- and Israeli-trained people achieved success immediately after entering this country. These sources say that they had a hand in the blasts in Karachi, Hyderabad, and other places. It is because (?dismemberment of Sindh) is included in the (?unholy designs) of India and Israel. India is making preparations for attacking Pakistan before the general elections.

Air Marshal: India's Prithvi Missile 'Serious Threat'

BK1907142793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 19 Jul 93 p 1

[Article by Air Marshal Ayaz Ahmed Khan, retired: "Prithvi Missile a Serious Threat to Pakistan's Defence"]

[Text] Lately, some astonishingly naive statements on defence matters from high government authorities have caused serious doubts about the credibility and competence of such officials to talk about military and defence matters. On Saturday July 11, Defence Minister Ghous Ali Shah, speaking on an adjournment motion in the Senate, debunked the report that India has deployed Prithvi surface-to-surface missiles on its border with Pakistan. He said that Indian (Prithvi) missiles are still being tested and will not become operational before 1995. In his wisdom and perhaps on the advice of some agencies or officials of the Defence Department, [he] remarked that "The reports saying that the Prithvi missiles have been deployed emanated from New Delhi as a plot to provoke Pakistan into saying something about the alleged Pak-China deal on M-11 missiles." The mover of the motion, Professor Khurshid Ahmed, insisted that the Prithvi missiles [words indistinct] be discussed in the Senate with full details, as the said surface-to-surface missiles could hit any place within a radius of 250 km. But the honourable Defence Minister insisted that "The Prithvi missiles were not so powerful that they could hit any Pakistani town." The Minister warned, "that Pakistan Government was fully conscious of its responsibility to make the country's defence impregnable. Should India make any mischief, it would be foiled with full force." Such naivete and ignorance, especially at the level of the Defence Minister is incredulous.

Senator Khurshid Ahmed who had come fully prepared interjected stating that, "It is not true that the Prithvi missiles are not operational. These missiles are fully operational, and have already been deployed on the Pakistan-India border."

It is in order that the record be set straight and correct information about the deployment and operational status of the highly potent Prithvi missile, whose deployment has created a serious security situation, be presented for public knowledge by quoting from responsible Indian sources. Hindustan Times of May 22, 1993 reports from "Somewhere in the Western sector, May 21-Prithvi, India's first long range surface-to-surface missile has been inducted in the Indian Army. The II Corps has achieved the distinction of being the first Corps to be equipped with this missile. The missiles have been kept at forward ammunition depots somewhere in Punjab from where key Pakistani towns and military installations along the Punjab border will be within reach of the missile system which has a range of 250 km. With the induction of the Prithvi missile, important Pakistani cites like Sialkot, Gujranwala, Lahore, and Faisalabad could be easily targeted by the Indian missile system." Hindustan Times adds that "The move to deploy the Prithvi missiles coincided with the recently conducted test exercise of the 15 Infantry Division of the Indian Army, which continued for more than a month, and ended in the first week of May 1993. During the exercise period, the Prithvi missiles were transported under heavy security and deployed at the Base Depot. Security at the Prithvi sites has been further strengthened, but senior officials are regularly visiting the Depot. Quite clearly, after several test firings described below, this deadly missile system has been handed over to the Indian Army after due field trials to destroy Pakistani cities and military installations at an appropriate time."

The Hindustan Times report further adds the Prithvi surface-to- surface missile, with a range of 250 km, was conceived and developed by the DRDO i.e., Defence Research and Development Organisation in the early 80's. The first experimental flight of the prototype code named PE-01 took place on February 22, 1988, and was highly successful. For the DRDO it was a major success, because propulsion, guidance, and control systems were tested out in one flight, as against three separate flights planned to test each system. Prithvi can carry a payload (warhead) of one tonne. It has an on board computer for inertial navigation. In the inertial navigation mode the computer reads the topography of the area over which the missile is flying, and directs it to change its flight as per the layout of the terrain. Prithvi can evade "Patriot" type defensive missile systems by homing on to different targets. Prithvi missile systems excels over other comparable missile systems with respect to the circular error probability (CEP), which is just 100 to 150-200 metres. Prithvi thus will not miss the selected targets by more than 100-200 metres." [quotation marks as published]

Indian claims about the accuracy and potency of the Prithvi missile should be confirmed and substantiated by experts by SUPARCO [expansion unknown] and other specialist agencies. Prithvi's chemistry has already been made public by the DRDO. The missile uses liquid propellent i.e. 50 percent xylidine and to balance triethylamine and nitric acid as oxidiser. When filled it has a

shelf life of five years. Without propellent the electronics and guidance computer are good for twenty-five years. The Indian claim that they are well ahead of any other nation in missile technology should not be brushed aside, without thorough evidence to the contrary.

The Indian Army has already developed an integrated organisation for Prithvi's strike mission against Pakistan. Every Prithvi battery is connected to a launch control centre to be located adjacent to Corps/Div HQ. Each battery consists of four launcher trucks, each of which is connected to a central search and homing radar, which tracks to the line of sight range. The announced purpose of the survey vehicle is to collect and compute data for the accuracy of flight of the missile.

Prithvi Regiments consisting of three Prithvi batteries have been constituted as part of 15 and other divisions of II Corps. Each Prithvi Regiment has six specialist vehicles for the transportation and maintenance of missile systems. The Prithvi Missile Regiments deployed at the depots or in the field are well protected by air defence SAM [surface-to-air missile] systems. Indian media handouts claim that the Prithvi surface-to-surface missile has the capability to destroy concrete structures, and has tremendous lethal power to destroy targets even with conventional warheads.

Indian Defence reports published from 1989 to 1992 confirm that the Prithvi surface-to-surface missile is a battlefield support missile with a range of 250 km with 500 kg warhead, or 150 km with 1000 kg warhead. The minimum range is 40 km. It was first flight tested on February 22, 1988; the second time on September 1989; and the third time on February 10, 1991. It is designed to destroy troop and armour concentrations, air bases, POL and munition depots, static installations, command headquarters, railway junctions, yard/stations, harbours, and populated areas. It will carry a wide range of warheads, including cluster submunition bomblets, released for airbursts to destroy armour, hard targets, soft vehicles and personnel.

It is a fairly mobile system. Carried on 8X8 TEL, i.e., tractor-erector-launcher vehicle, with support propellent loading vehicles it could be moved to different locations at short notice. Prithvi is certainly more accurate and lethal than the Soviet Scud or the American Lance missile. Over 250 km range, the max drift is less than 0.1 percent from the target. It is thus comparable to improved US Lance and Pershing surface-to-surface missiles. Fitted with tactical nuclear warheads, Prithvi could be used with devastating effect against the Pakistan Army, forward PAF [Pakistani Air Force] bases, and several Pakistani cities which are within its range.

The Times of India report dated February 9, 1993, had earlier confirmed that all the ten trial and test firings of Prithvi since February 22, 1988, had validated design improvements at every step. Though a Prithvi missile did break up in mid air during the sixth test firing when subjected to difficult manoeuvre, the faults were corrected and subsequent technical and field trials certified that the missile was fully operational. Reportedly Bharat Dynamics, Hyderabad is the prime contractor. Series production is now in full swing, and additional units are planned to be raised for the Corps and Divisions under Western Command of the Indian Army. Indian Army commanders are excited by the offensive potential, lethality and accuracy of this new guided weapon system.

It is painful that Pakistan's former Defence Minister was totally ignorant about a highly letal offensive weapon system being supplied to the Indian Army and being deployed along the borders of Punjab, targeted against out cities and vital defence installations. Instead of debunking Indian claims about Prithvi, and misleading the Senate and the people with off-the-cuff remarks on such a serious subject, Mr Ghous Ali Shah should have made some effort to have his facts right.

Trade Policy Offers Concessions to Industry, Farming

BK1907125993 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Jul 93 p 17

[Text] Islamabad—The Federal Government here on Wednesday [14 July] announced its trade policy for the year 1993-94 offering a lot of concessions to industrial and agricultural sectors and setting a report target of eight billion dollars for the current fiscal.

Federal Minister for Commerce Malik Naim Khan announcing the new trade policy said that this year the Government had provided incentives to major sectors like engineering industry, manufacruting textile, agricultural and cutlery industries by removing Customs and import duties.

He said for the first time the farm export sector (excluding rice and cotton) shall be treated at par with the export industry and entitled to all facilities, services and incentives provided for the export of manufactured goods.

In this regard a major decision has been taken during a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday which approved the new trade policy, under export farms will be allowed to import agricultural machinery and equipment not manufactured locally and all agricultural inputs will be free of duty and sales tax.

The trade policy provides major intentives to the textile industry by allowing it to import lap machinery, drawing or rowing machinary, and twisting machinery without paying the Custom duty. The import of ramie, ramie yarn and Iytra has also been allowed free of duty and also new import of yarn of wool, silk, viscose, acrylte and dyed yarn of cotton have also been allowed to be imported free of duty, sales tax and Iqra surcharge.

The import of second-hand terry shuttleless looms and second-hand looms for specialised textiles has been allowed by industrial consumers free of Customs duty and sales tax.

Similarly, the facility has been provided to the manufacturers and exporters of textile to import their raw materials and accessories without payment of duty upon furnishing an indemnity bond certified by the prospective association.

About the engineering industry the minister said that 10 items required by this industry had been allowed to be imported free of duty and sales tax both by the industrial and commercial importers. The details of the items were not provided. Similarly, all parts and components required for use in the manufacture of capital goods and not manufactured locally, have been allowed free of duty and sales tax. Machinery for quality control and for testing laboratories to be prescribed also allowed to be imported against cash free of duty, sales tax and import licence fee. The plastic industry has been provided with new incentives and as a first step long-haul refrigerated vehicles have been made eligible for financing out of the Prime Minister's scheme for revamping of public transport.

Pakistan Plastic Manufacturers Association has been allowed in the new trade policy to import their raw materials without the payment of duty, sales tax and Iqra surcharge. This facility was only provided to the manufacturers exporters of plastic industry.

Cutlery was another area which was provided relief and incentives to promote this industry and it was decided that straightening machines and vibratory bowls be allowed to be imported free of duty, sales tax, iqra surcharge and import licence fee under balancing [words indistinct] (BMR).

The rate of duty on import of magnicite (grinding wheel caps and flats) has been reduced from 90 percent to 30 percent. Likewise,import of derisified wood used for manufacture of hunting knives has been allowed free of duty.

The raw materials for this industry have been allowed to be imported free of duty, sales tax, Iqra surcharge and licence fee by the Cutlery Association.

In order to exploit the rich sea resources and to consolidate the growth the fishing sector, factory ships and vessels for processing and preserving sea products have been allowed to be imported free of duty, sales tax and fee. Machinery and equipment imported by sea food industry under HMR has been exempted from duty; and import of shrimps seedlings has been allowed free of duty, sales tax and import licence fee.

The capital base of export credit guarantee scheme has been increased from Rs. [Rupees] 60 million to Rs. 130 million which would cover loans amounting to Rs. 26 million.

The government has also announced in the new trade policy 10 projects in ancillary industries for improving their technical capability at a cost of Rs. 125 million out of Export Development Food.

Import of components of rice milling machinery has been allowed without payment of duty and rice tax. Import of colour sorting machines used by the rice milling industry has also been allowed free of duty and sales tax. Export of peanuts and barley has been allowed, import of conventional and hi-tech machinery, including laser machines used for cutting, shaping and polishing of stones has been allowed without payment of duty, sales tax and licence fee.

Announcing the decision of the new trade policy on imports, the minister said that monetary ceiling for the imports of machinery and mill work (excluding spinning machinery) had been enhanced by 10 percent. Likewise, commercial importers of garments/leather goods manufacturing machinery had been allowed to import machinery upto Rs. 20 million in addition to normal commercial imports of machinery up to Rs. 30 million.

The minister also announced the much awaited winding up of the office of the chief comptroller of imports and exports with effect from July 15. New system will be operative from July 17, 1993.

The minister hoped that the decision announced it the new trade policy would promote local exports and other trade related activities. "The decisions which I have announced today, reflect our determination to streamline and expand export of both traditional and non-traditional items", he added.

Agreement Signed for Launching Passenger Air Service

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[Text] Shahin Air International [SAI] and a group of private companies have signed an agreement on a joint program for launching a passenger air service. SAI is a subsidiary of the Pakistan Air Force, while the group of companies constitutes the biggest civil aviation group in Pakistan. Apart from Pakistan International Airlines, SAI is the second airline that will operate domestic and international passenger and cargo services. SAI has already carried hundreds of tonnes of cargo from Pakistan to Europe.